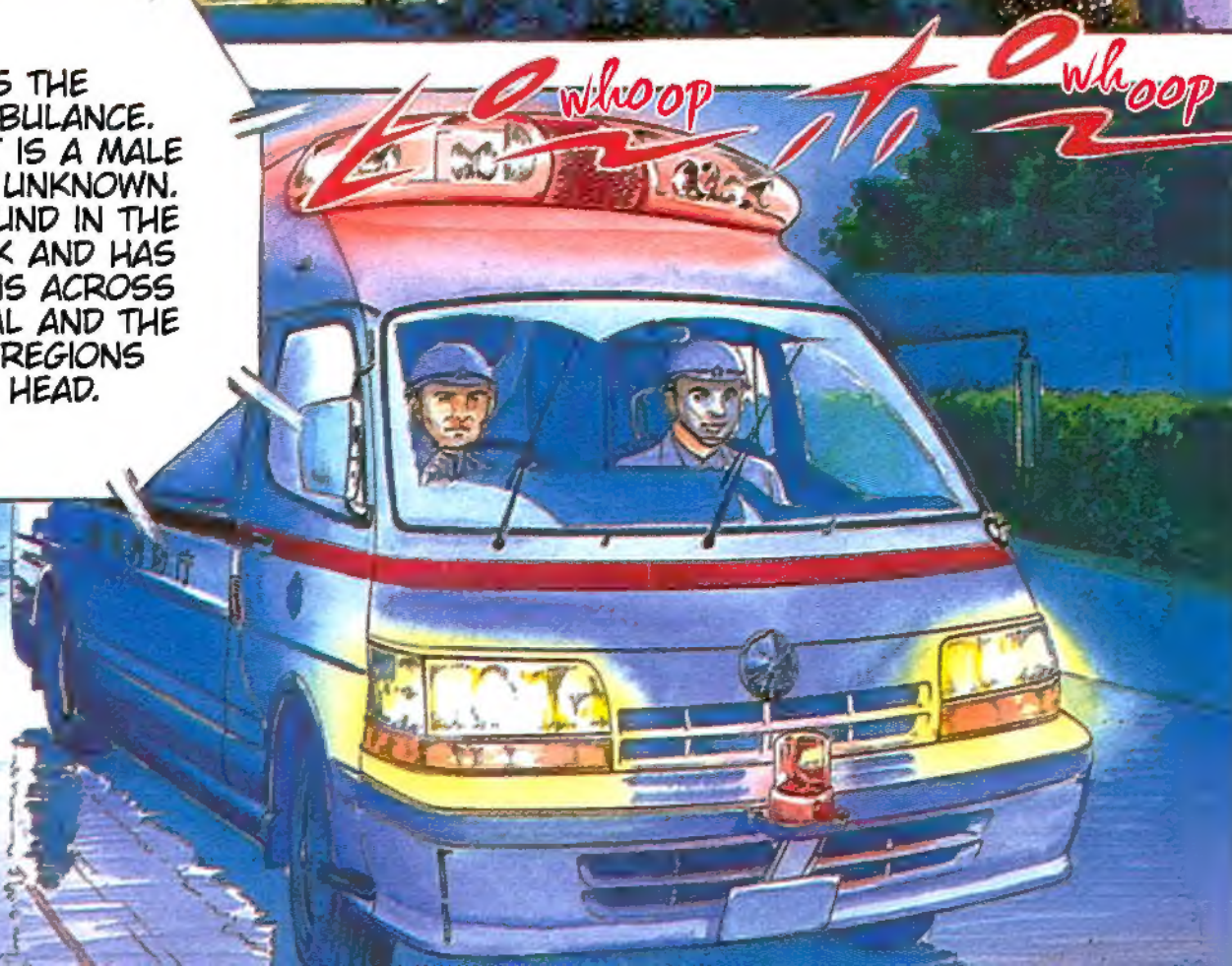


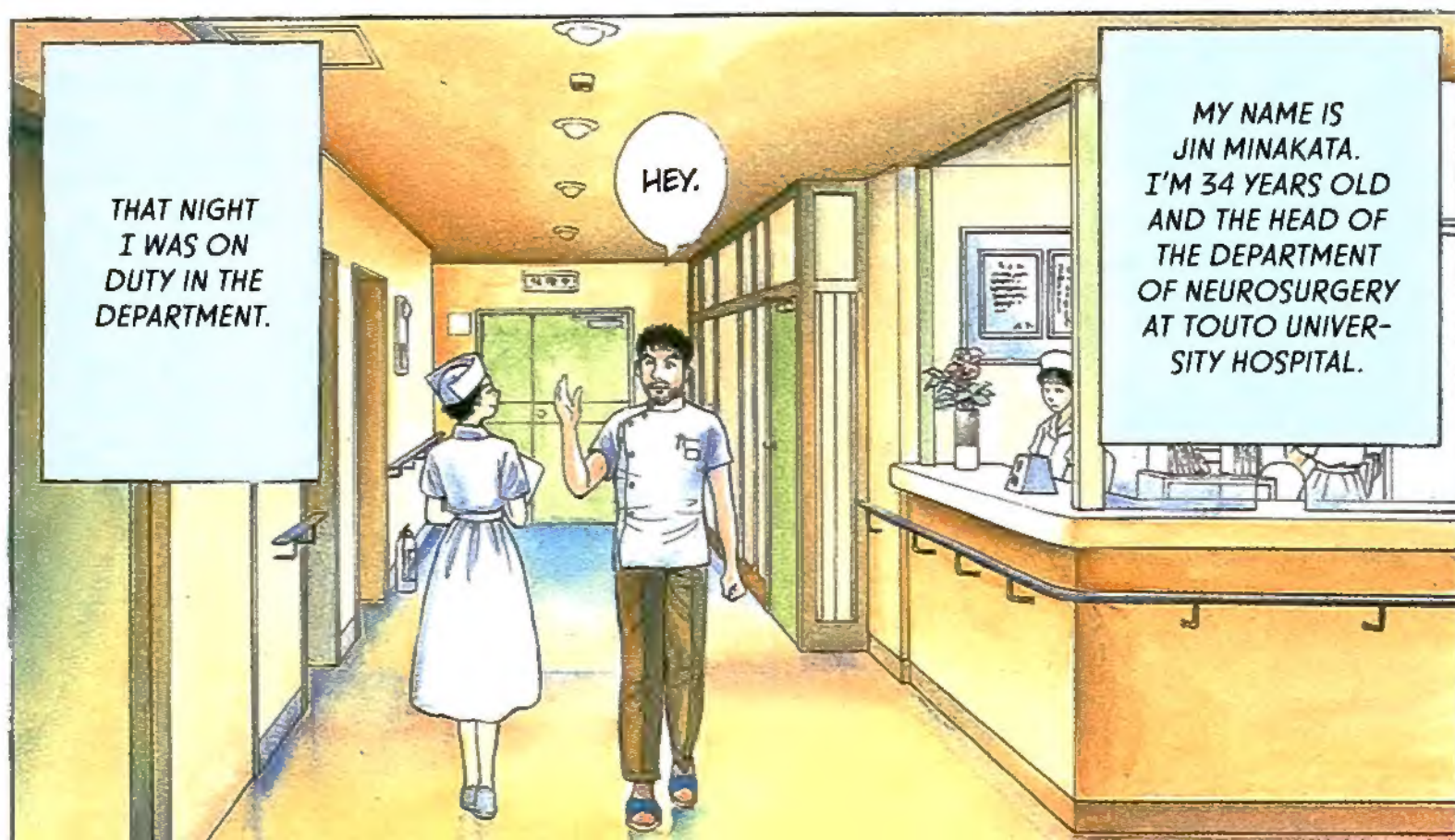
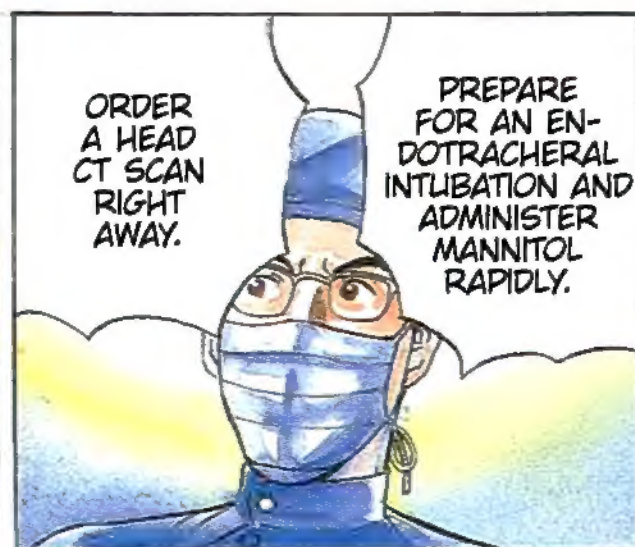
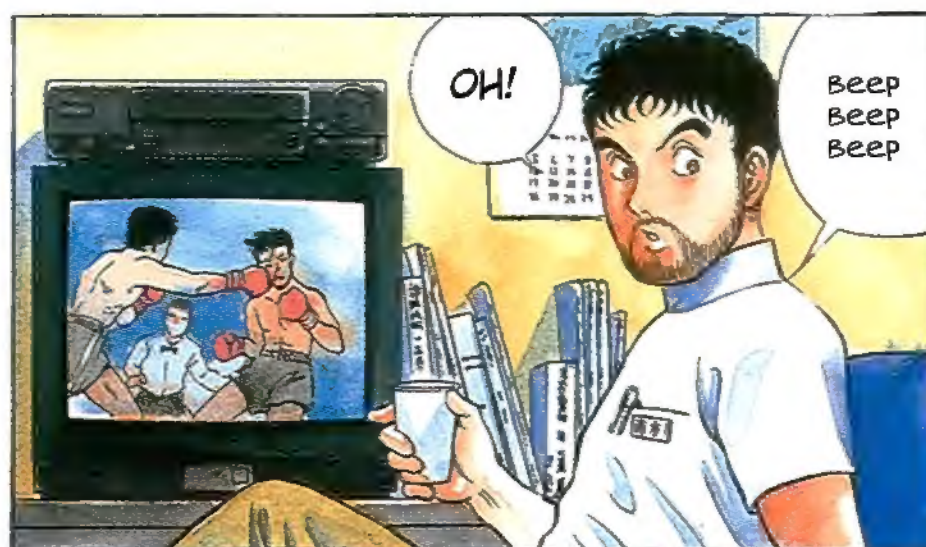
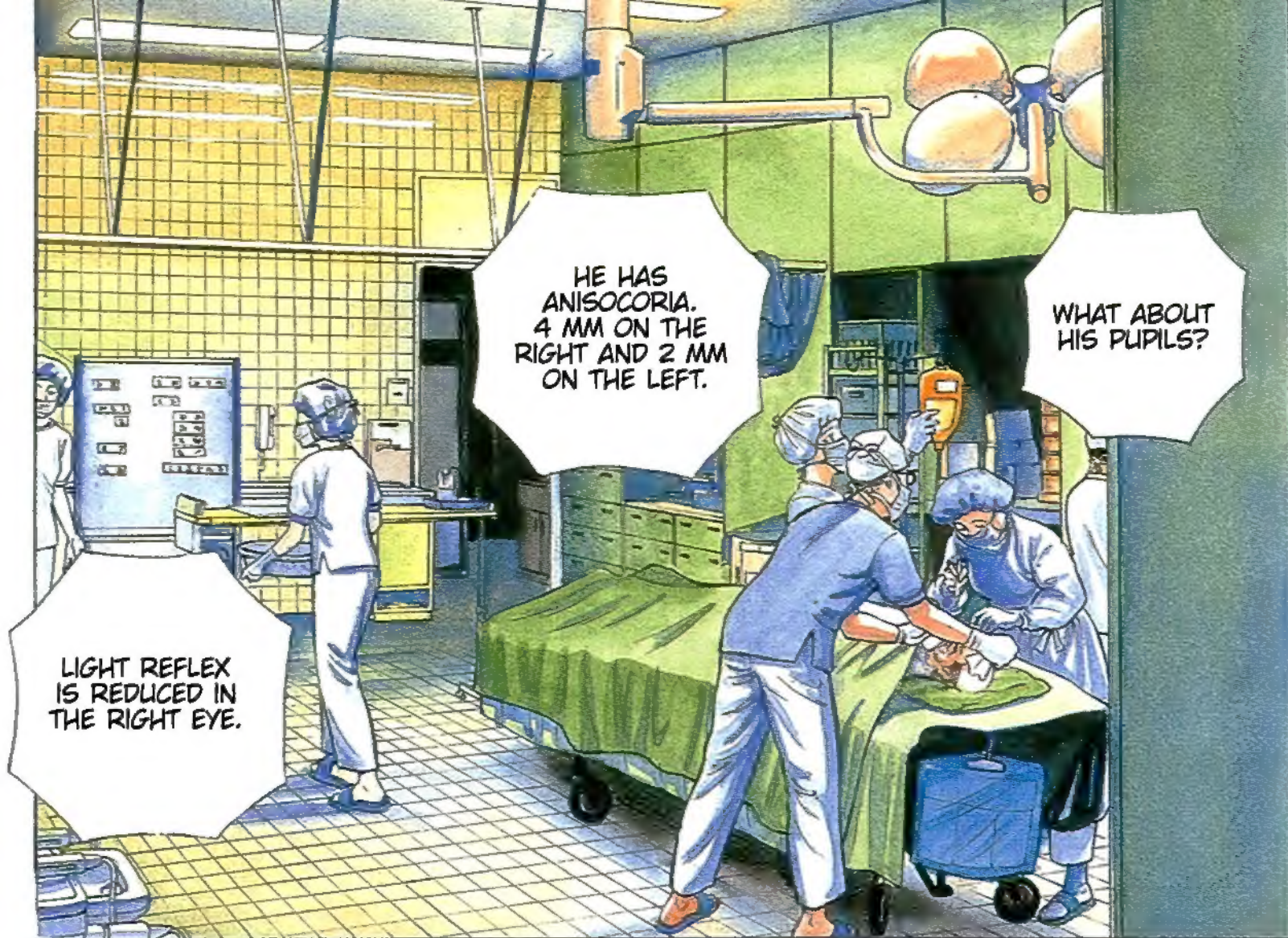
## DIVINE CHAPTER PART 1: GOD'S PRANK



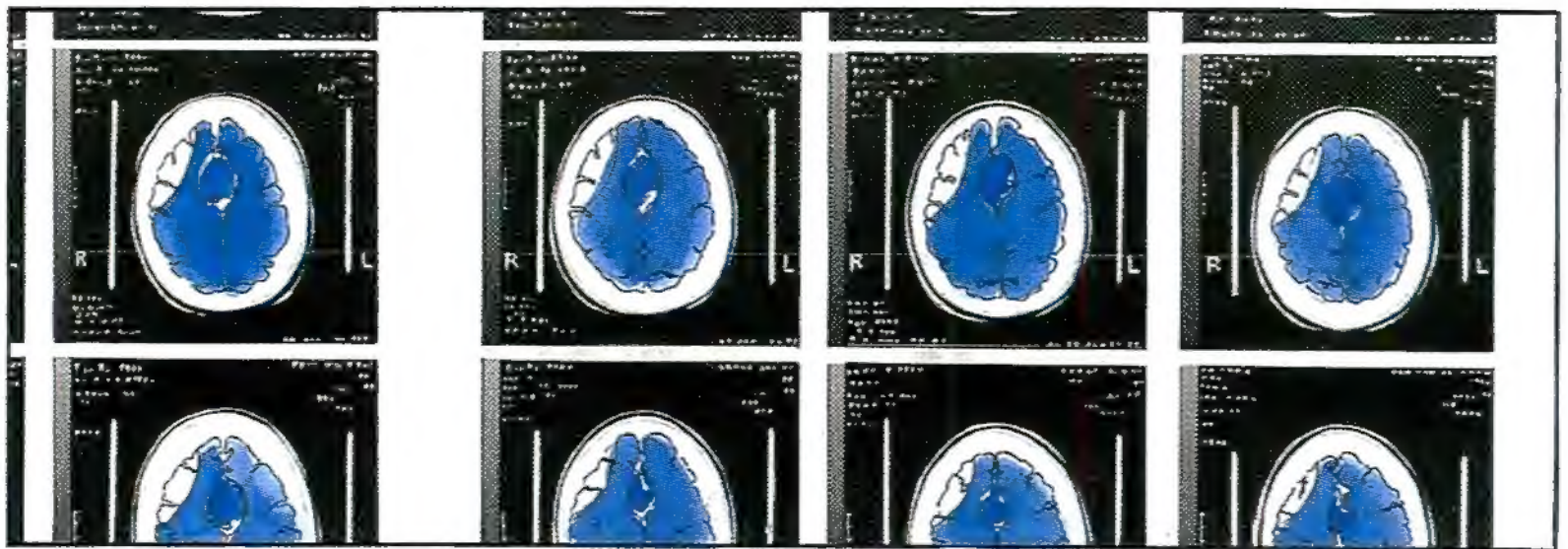
THIS IS THE  
KANDA AMBULANCE.  
THE PATIENT IS A MALE  
ADULT, AGE UNKNOWN.  
HE WAS FOUND IN THE  
KINSHI PARK AND HAS  
LACERATIONS ACROSS  
THE FRONTAL AND THE  
PARIETAL REGIONS  
OF HIS HEAD.



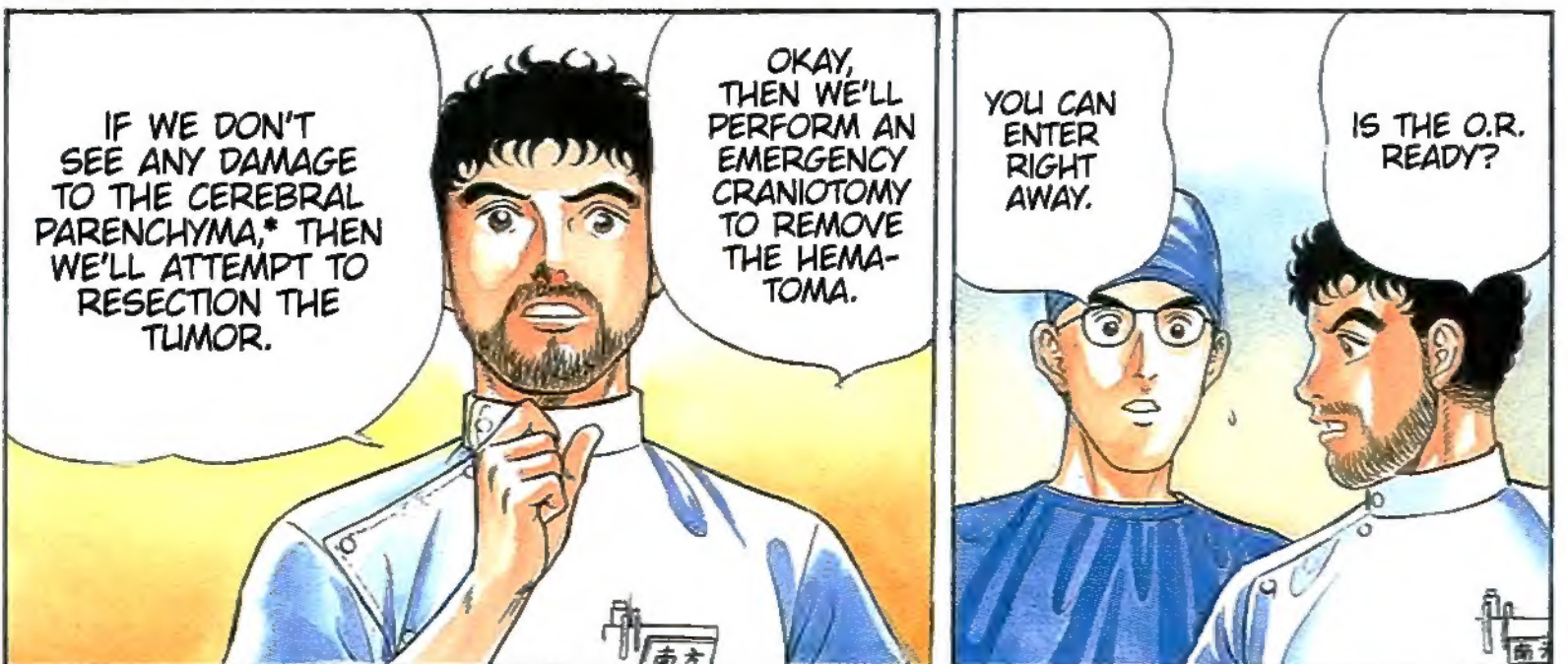




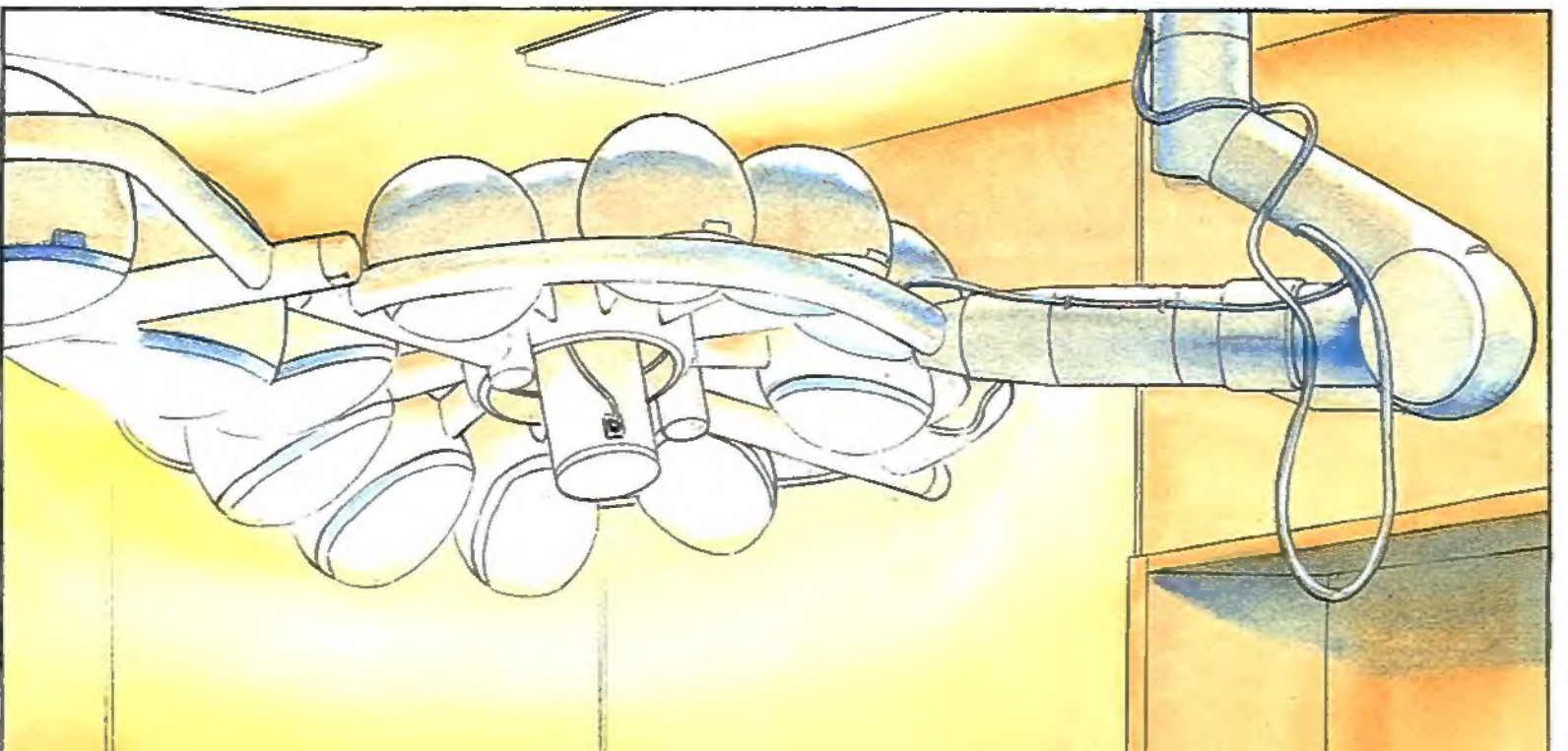




\*WATER ON THE BRAIN



\*THE BRAIN'S NERVOUS TISSUE

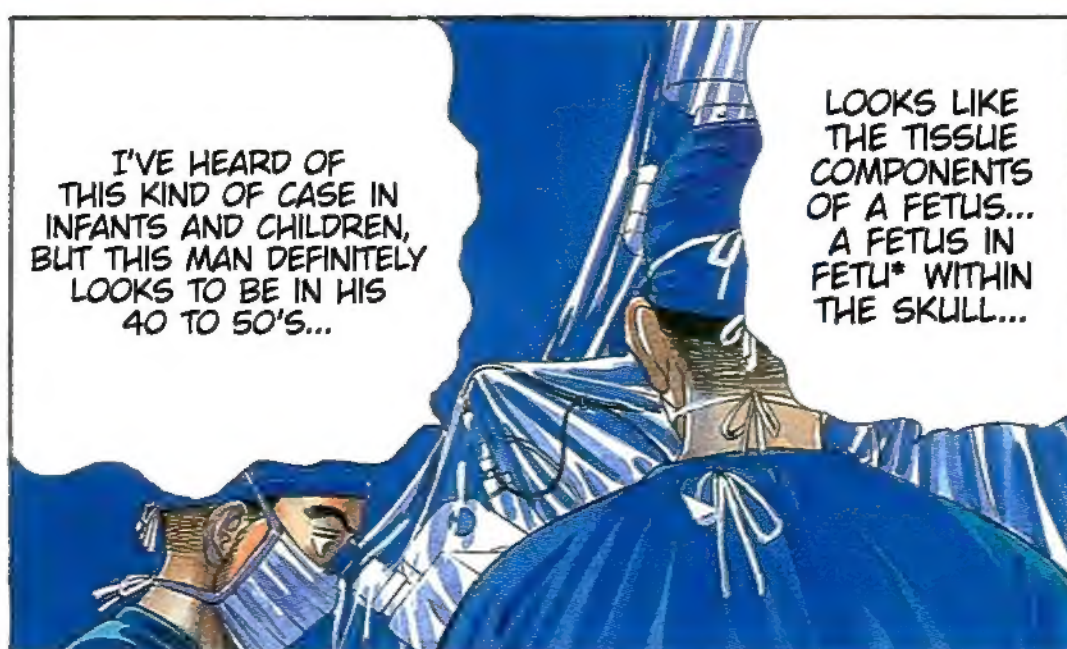
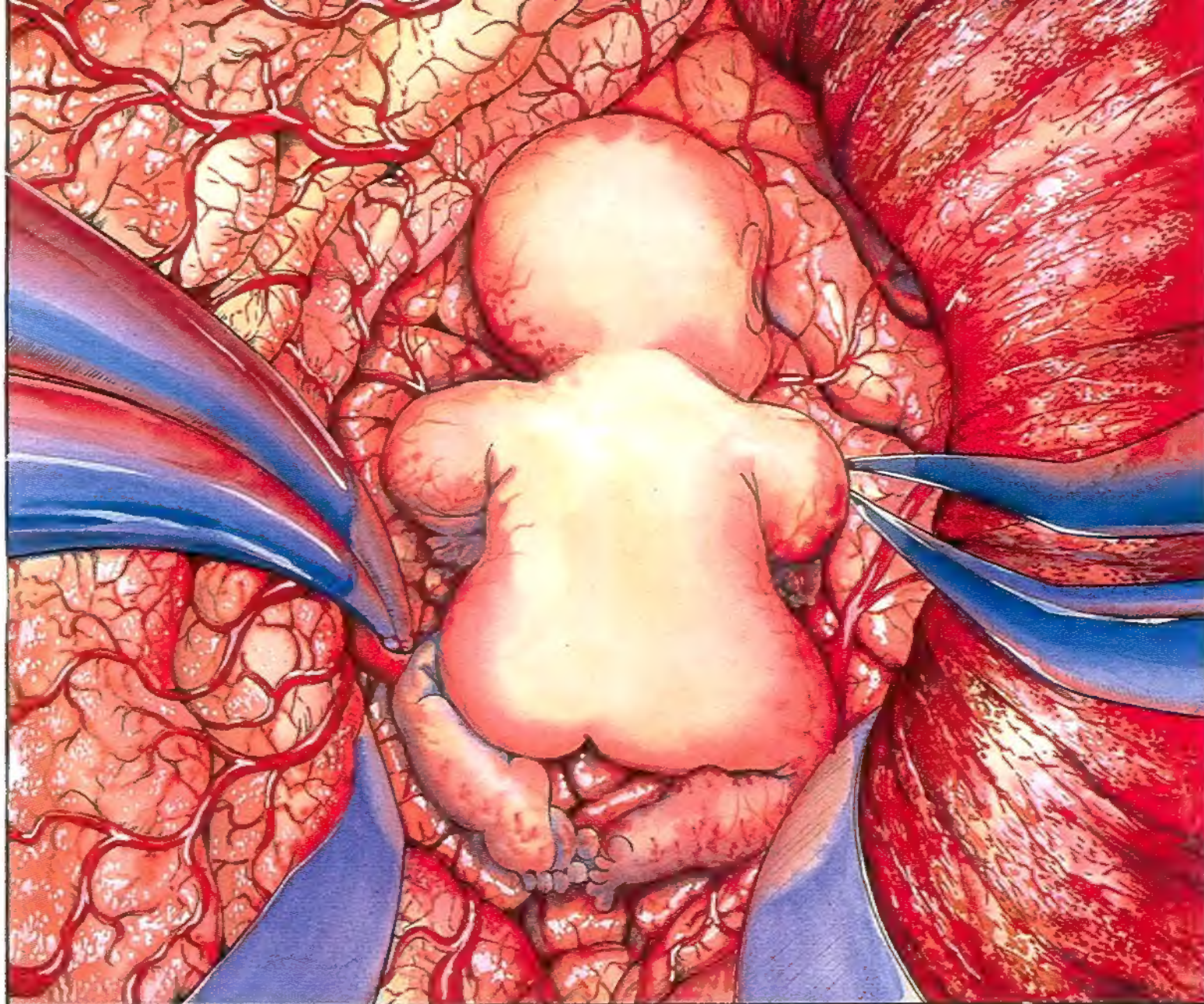




# DIVINE CHAPTER PART 1: GOD'S PRANK



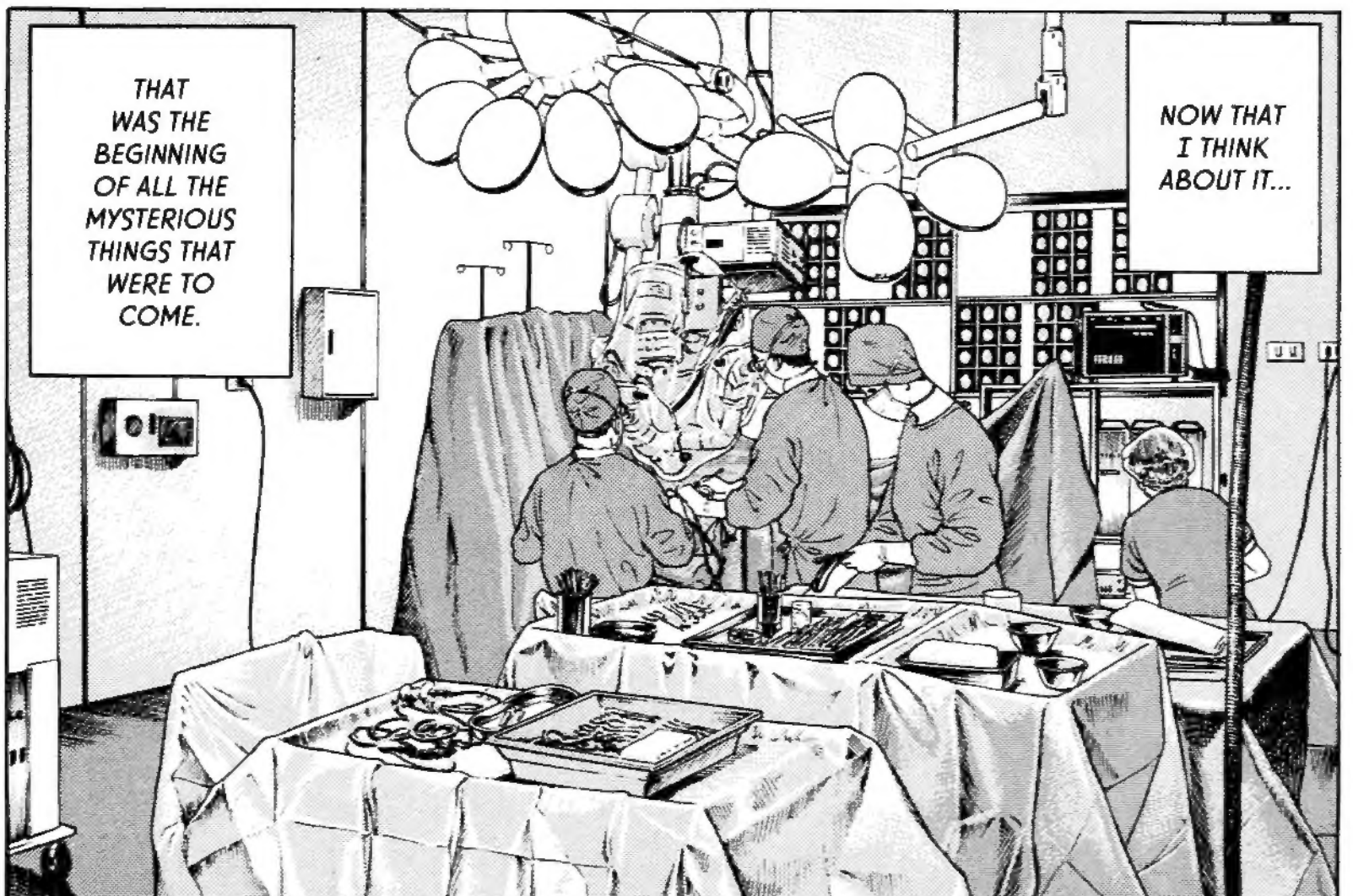
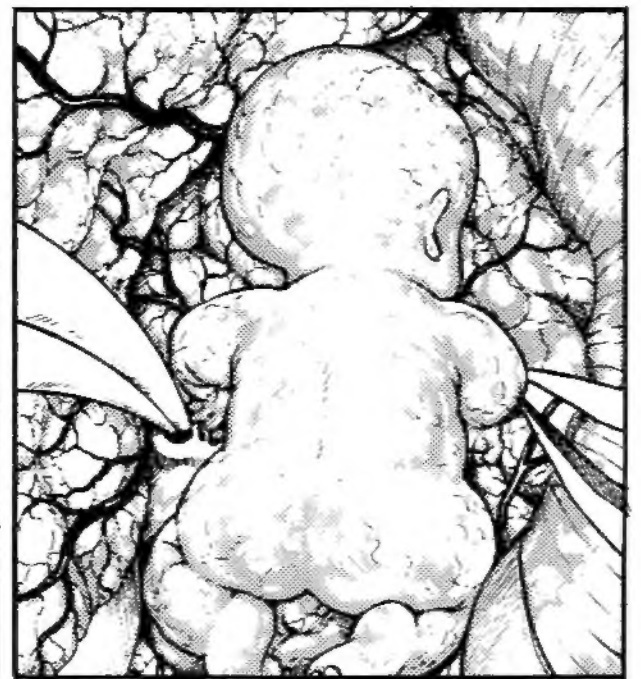
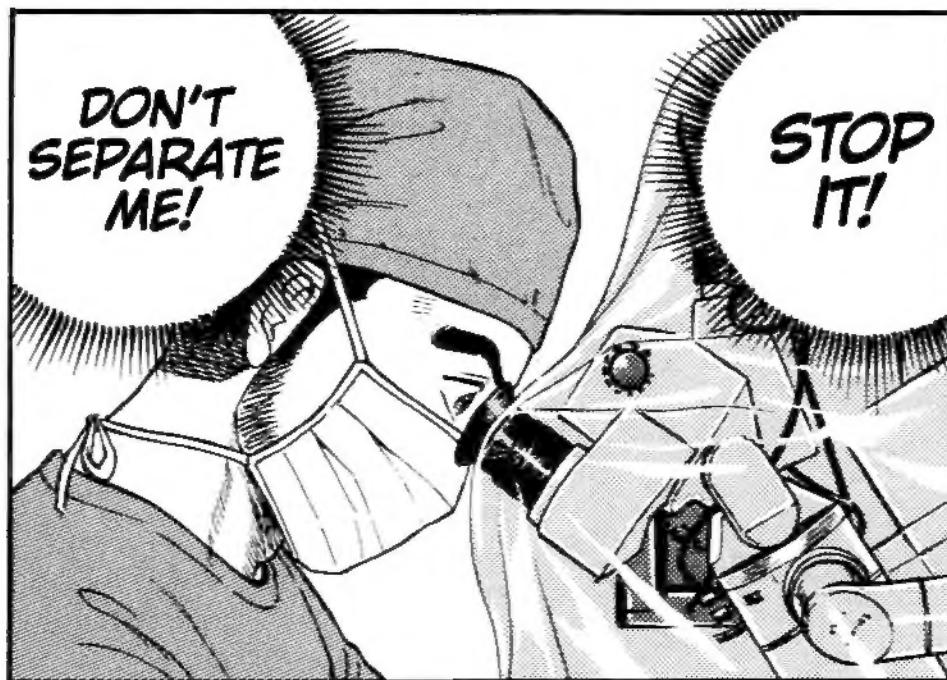




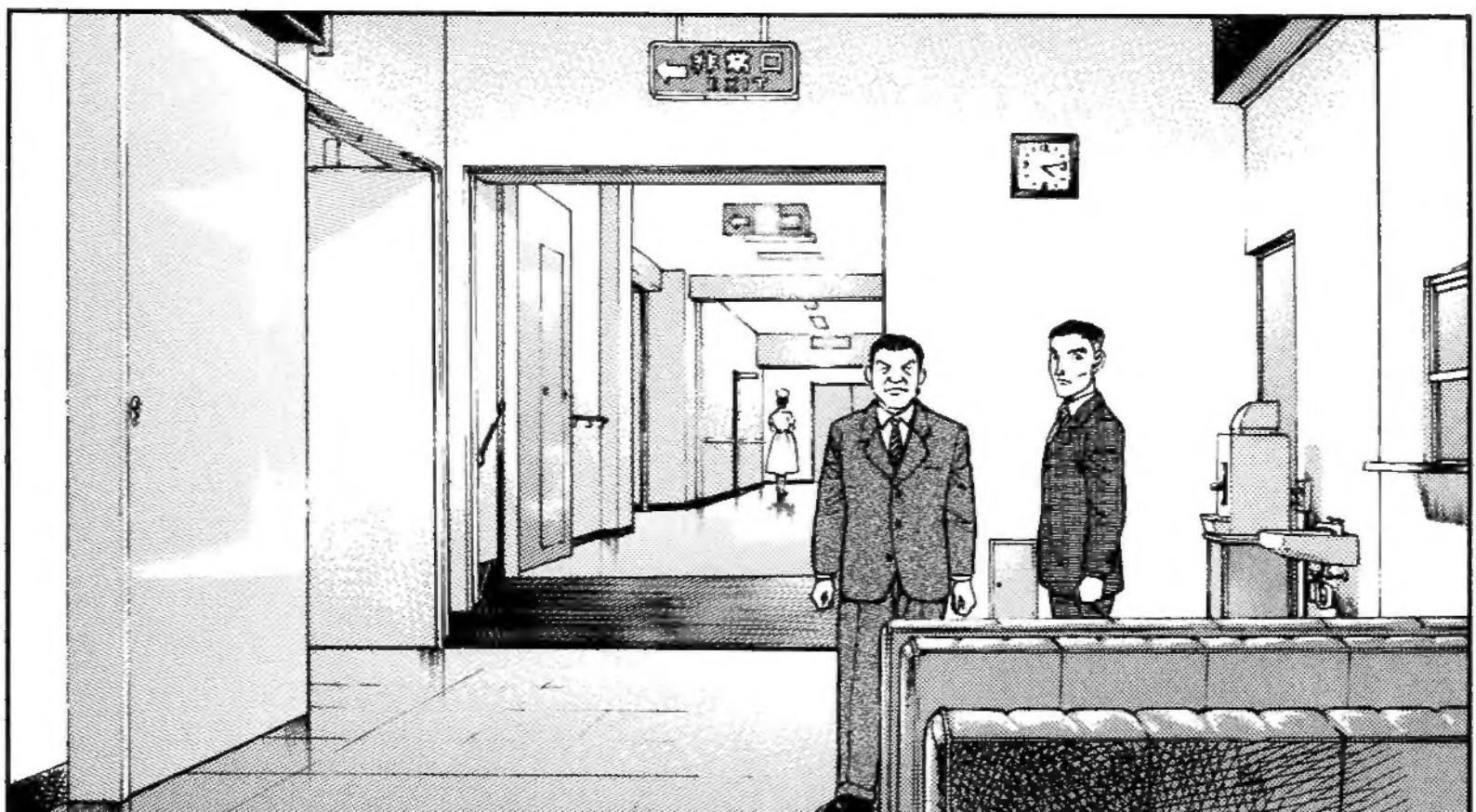
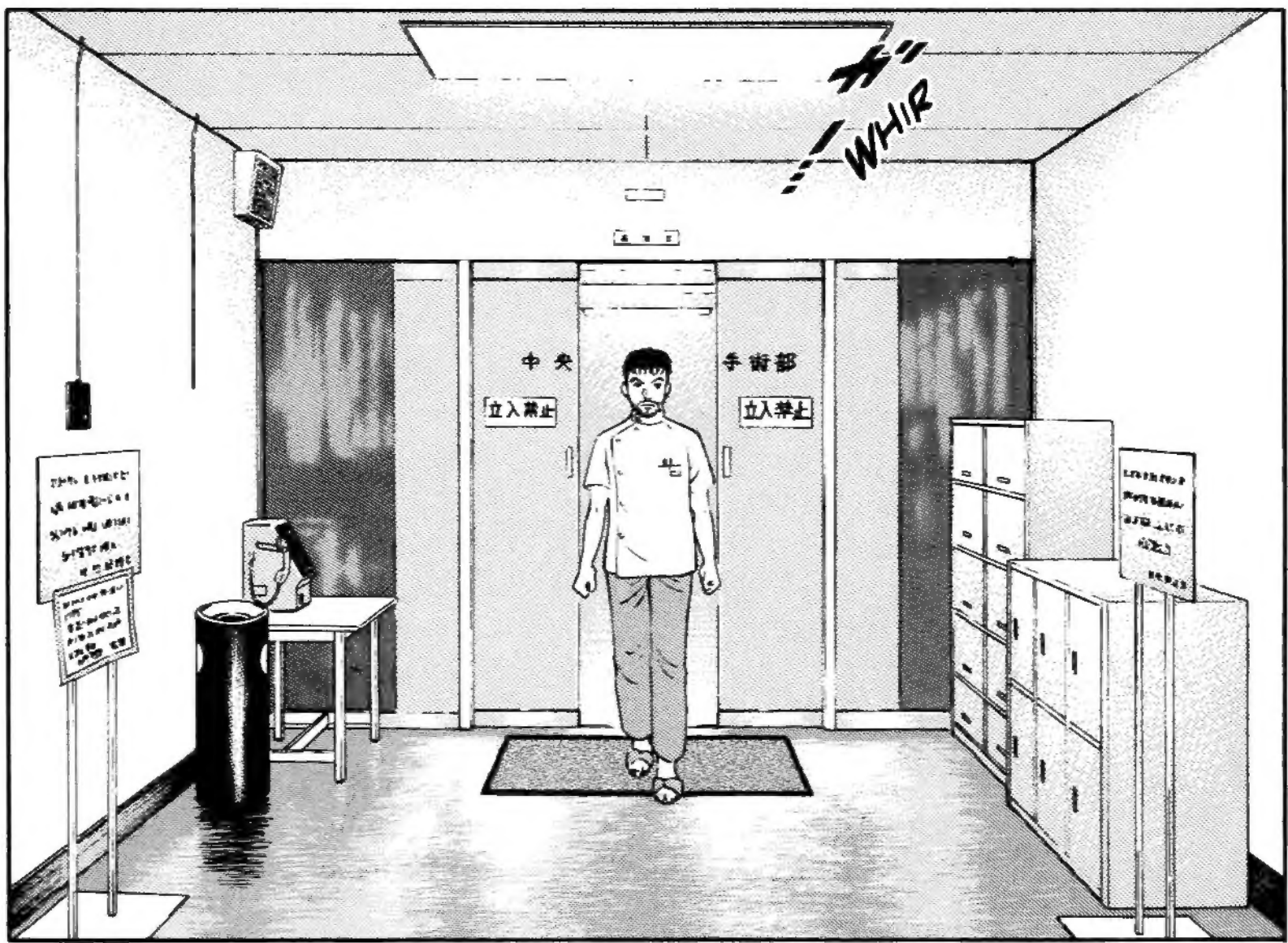
\*AN ABNORMALITY IN WHICH A MASS OF TISSUE RESEMBLING A FETUS FORMS INSIDE THE BODY.



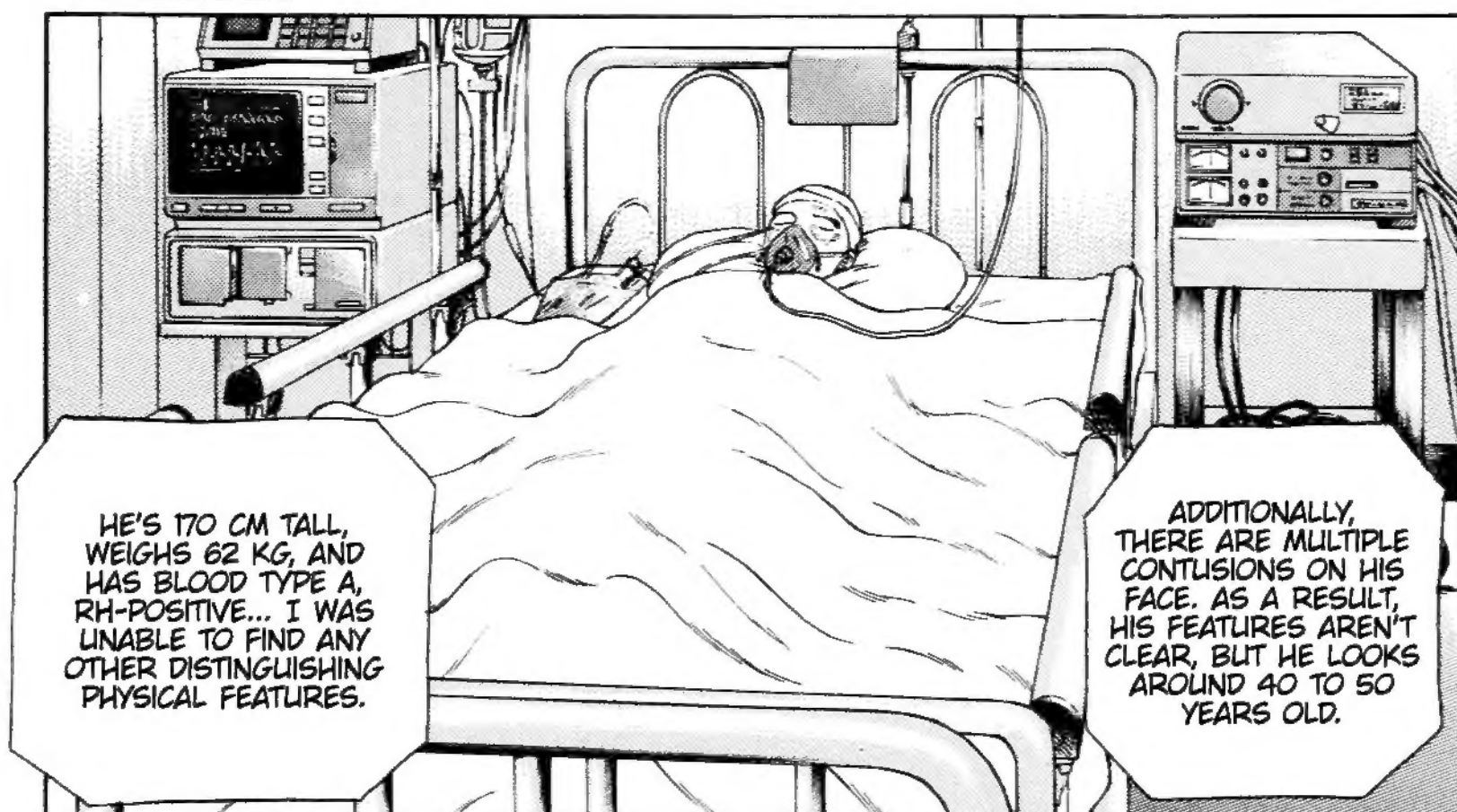
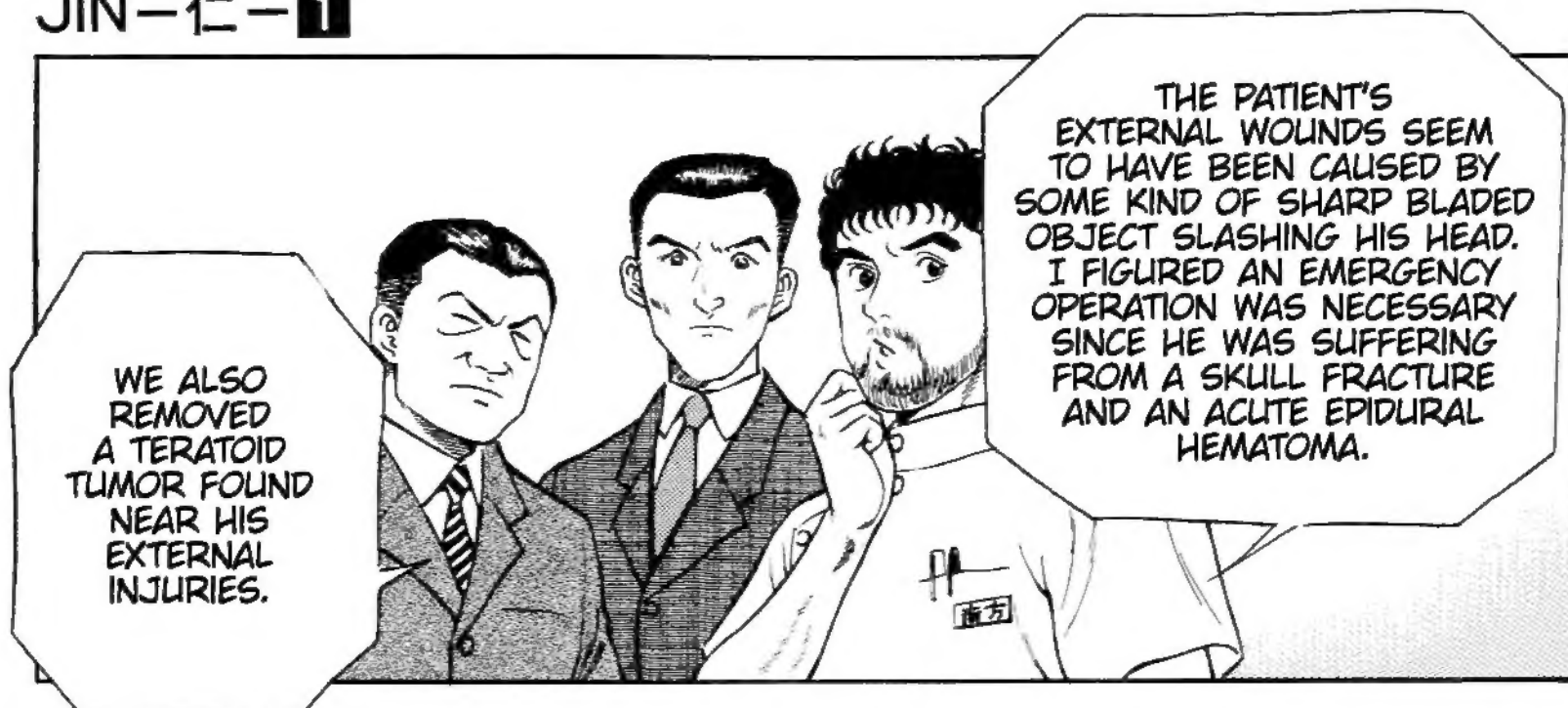




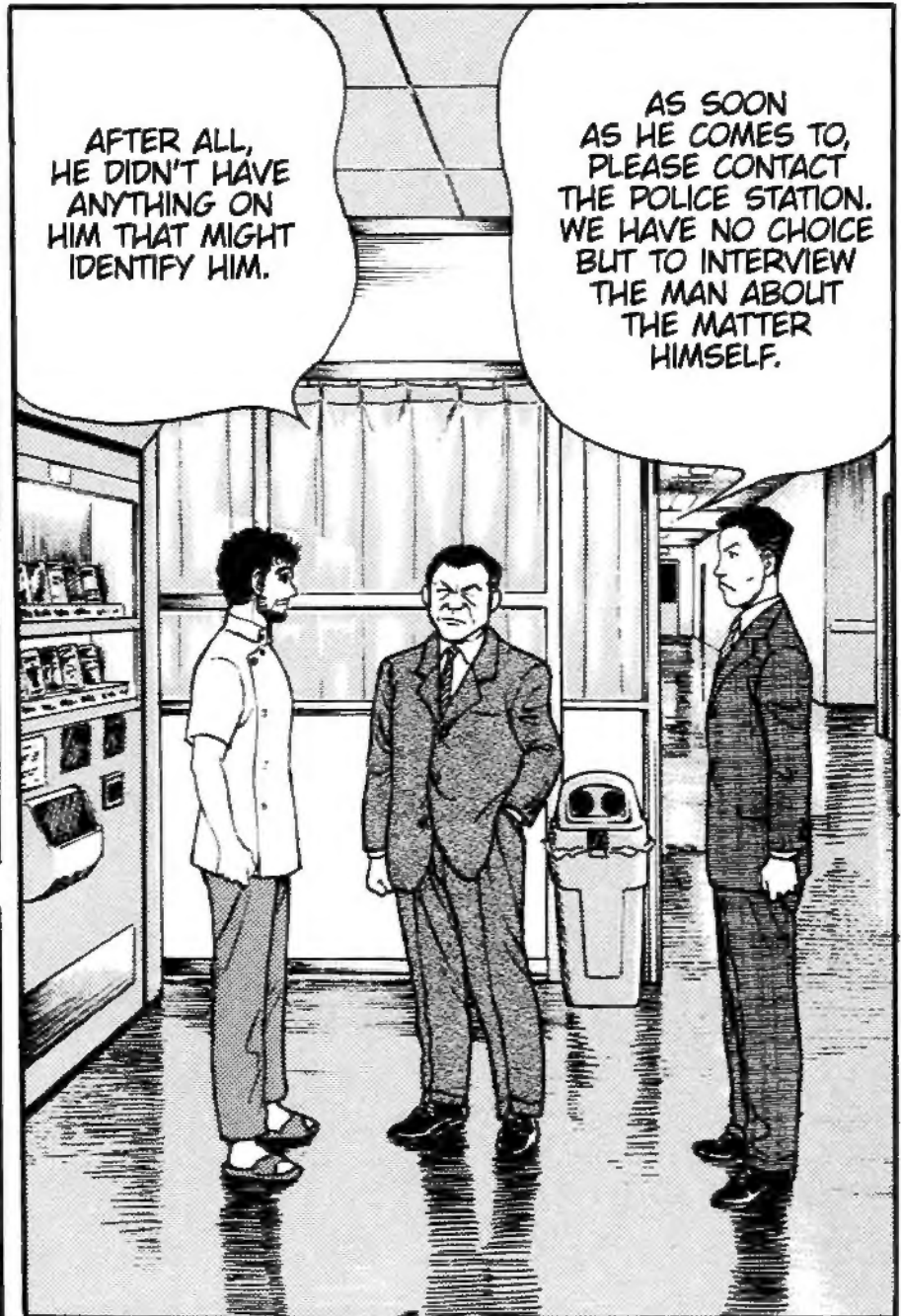












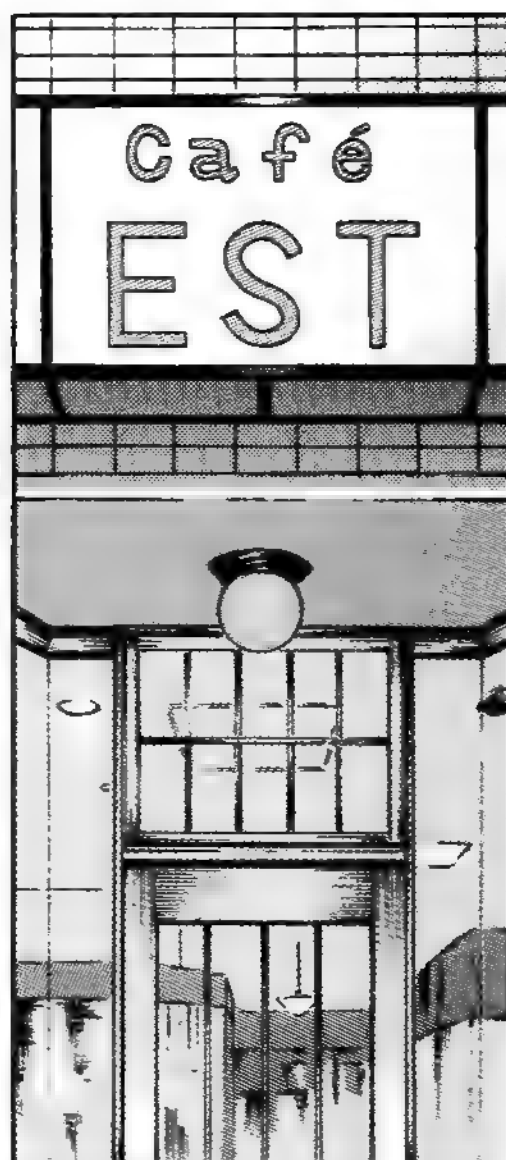


...LIKE A  
FETUS?!

IT WAS  
SHAPED...



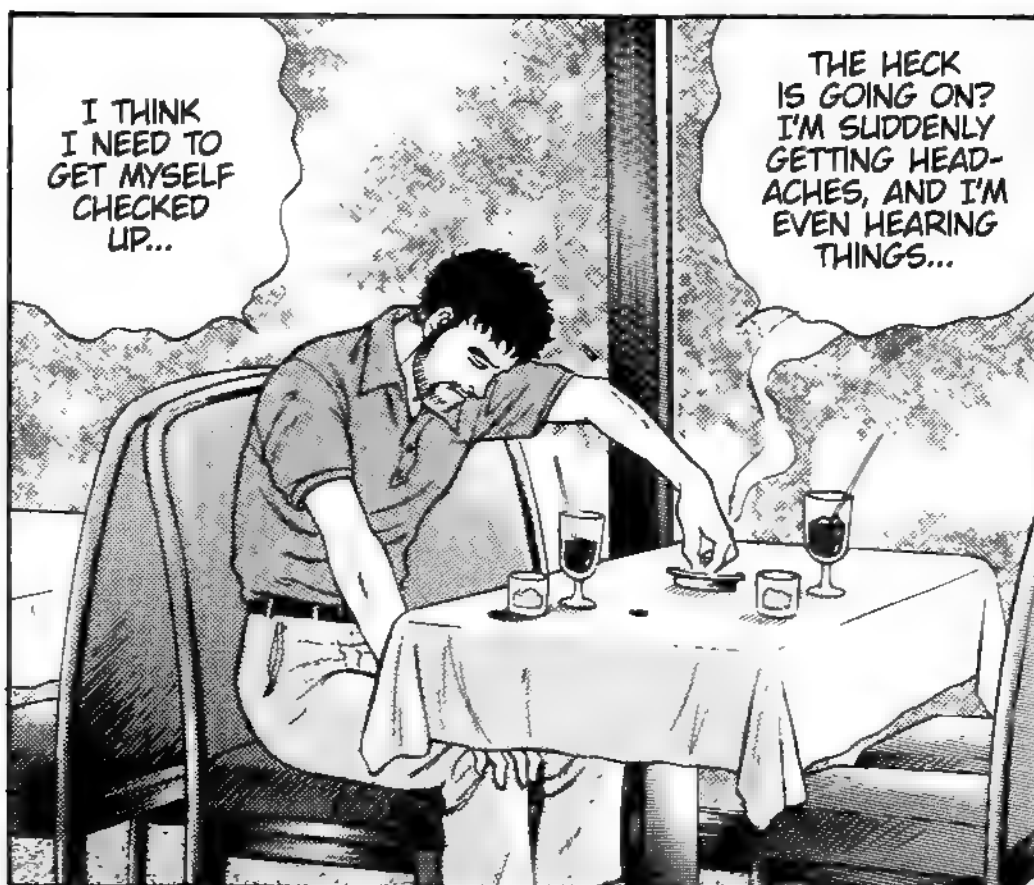








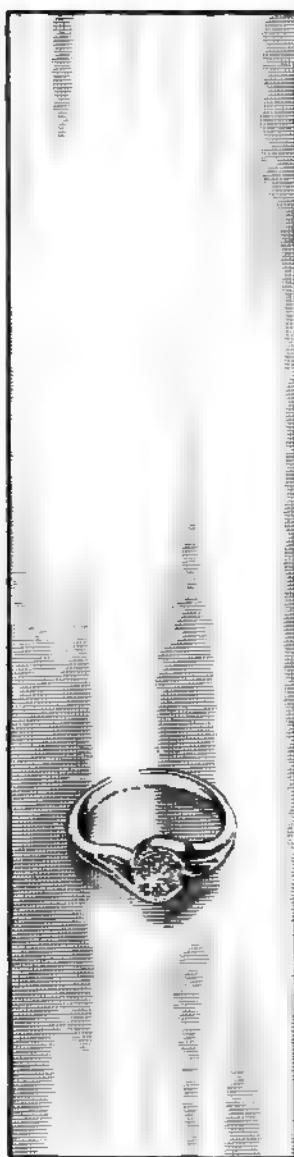








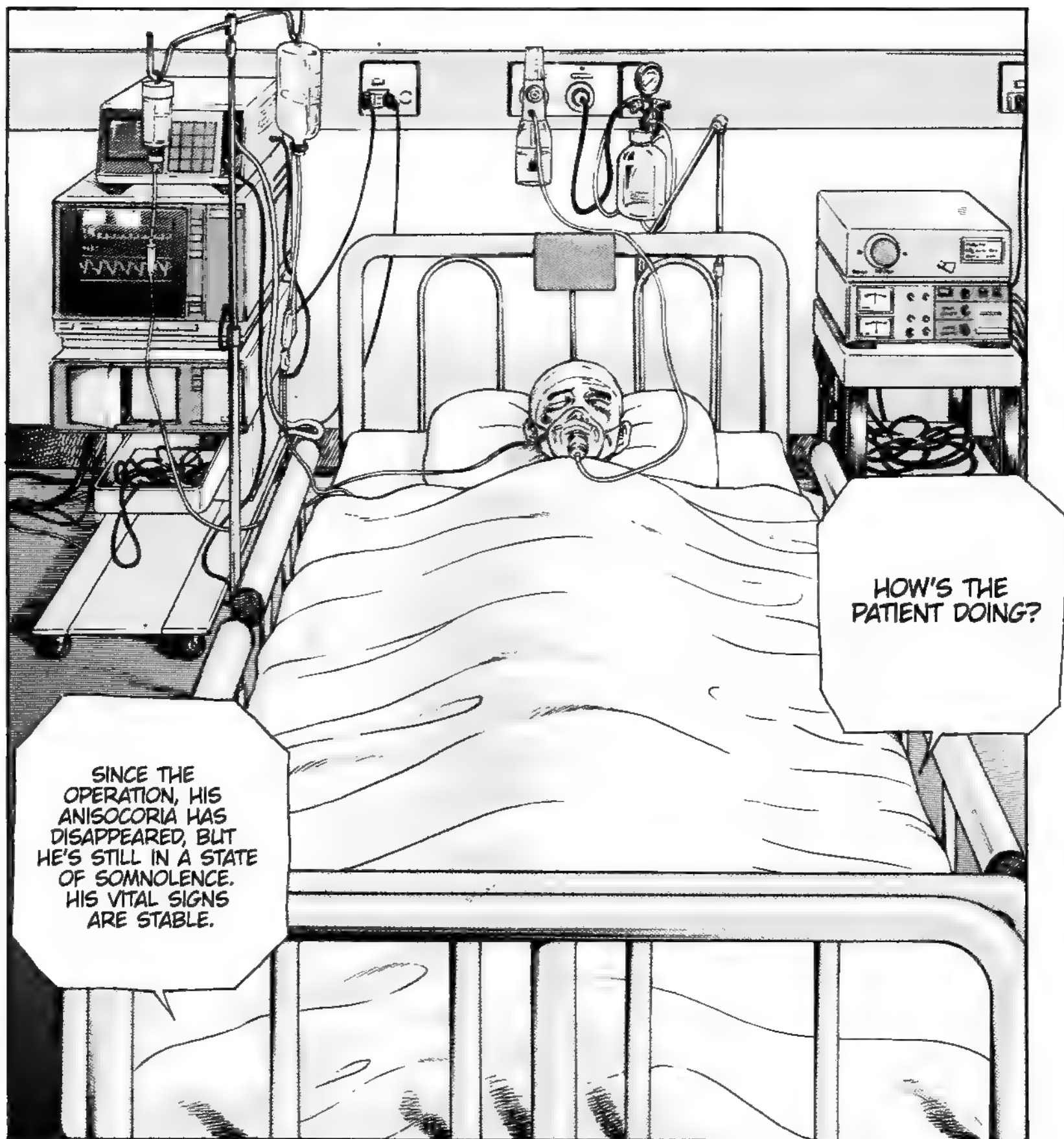
HEY!  
CAN'T GET  
HUNG UP  
ON THAT!



OH?!

Roll





HOW'S THE  
PATIENT DOING?

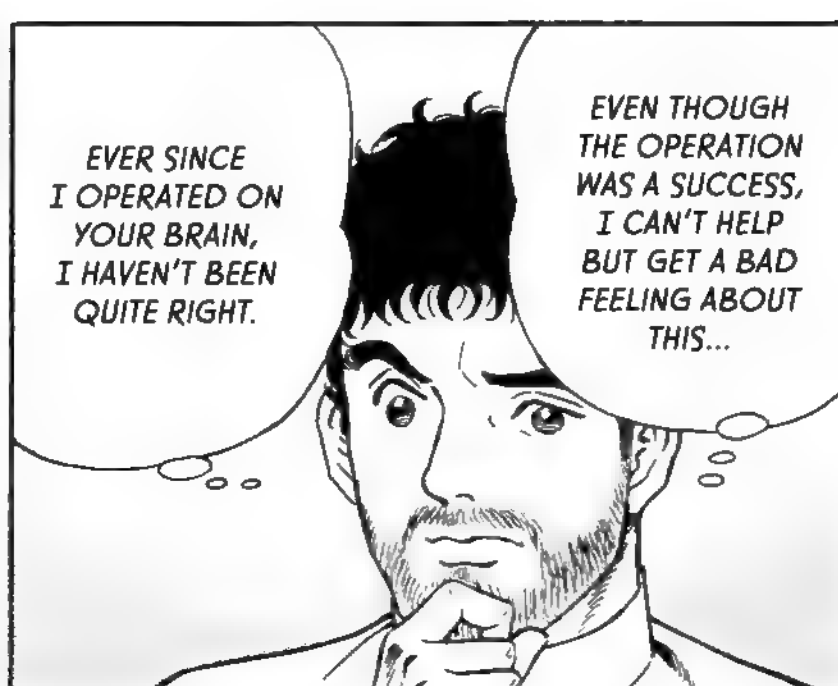
SINCE THE  
OPERATION, HIS  
ANISOCORIA HAS  
DISAPPEARED, BUT  
HE'S STILL IN A STATE  
OF SOMNOLENCE.  
HIS VITAL SIGNS  
ARE STABLE.



I'M NOT  
DOING ANYTHING  
ELSE TONIGHT, SO  
I'LL KEEP AN EYE  
ON HIM TOO.

IS THAT SO?  
I HOPE HE'LL  
AT LEAST BE  
ABLE TO TELL  
US HIS NAME  
IN THE NEXT  
FEW DAYS.









AH... IT  
FEELS LIKE  
I STUMBLED  
ACROSS  
SOMTHING  
INCREDIBLE.



PROFESSOR  
SAITOU TOOK  
GREAT INTEREST  
IN IT TOO, AND HE  
INSTRUCTED FOR  
THE TISSUE CELLS  
BE ANALYZED  
QUICKLY.

WHAT A  
SURPRISE!  
THAT TERA-  
TOID TUMOR  
DEFINITELY  
HAS TO BE  
A FETUS,  
RIGHT?



...THEN  
THAT MEANS THE  
PATIENT CARRIED  
HIS TWIN BROTHER  
IN HIS BRAIN FOR  
NEARLY 50 YEARS.  
THAT IS TRULY  
UNBELIEVABLE...

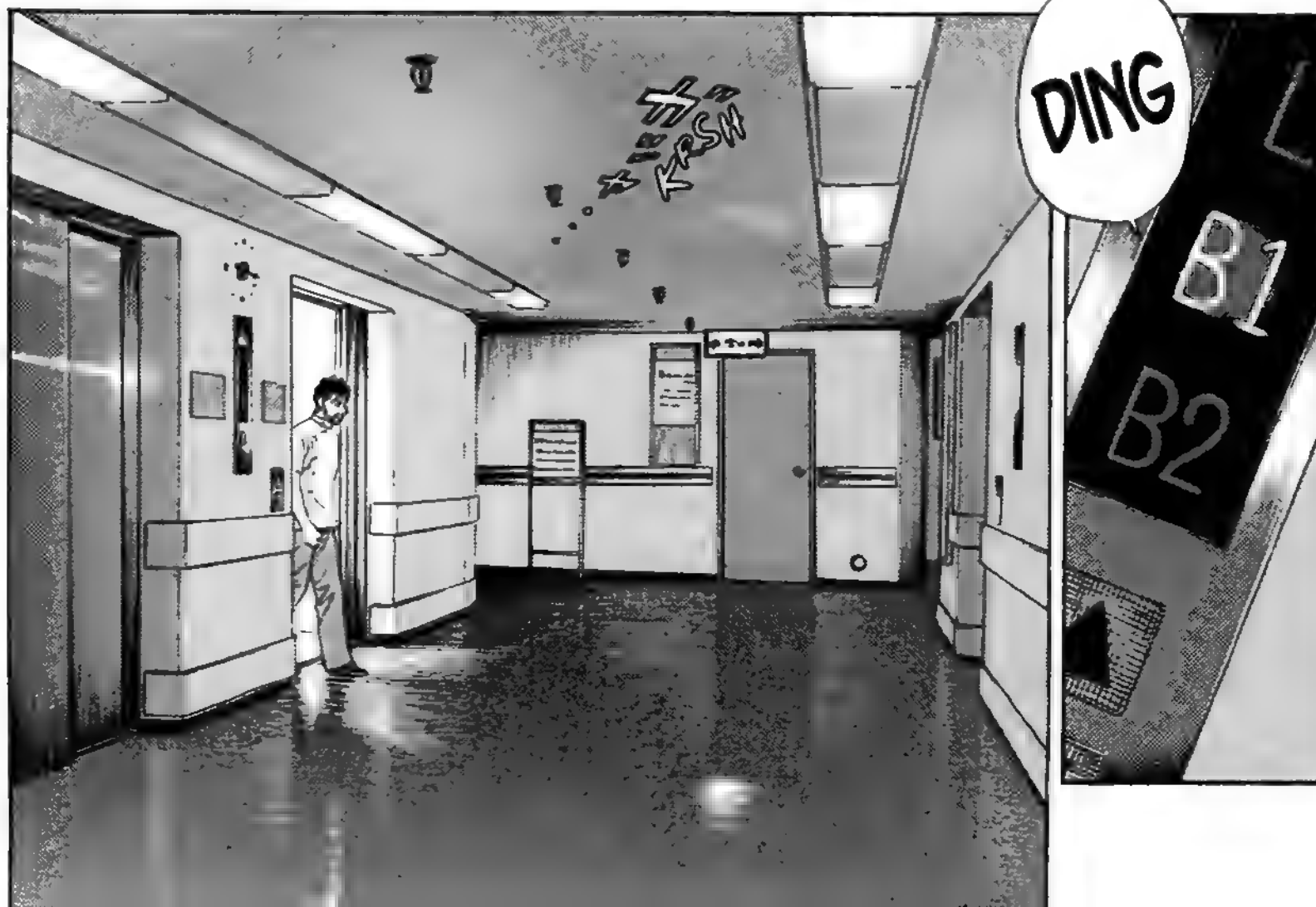
IF THAT  
TUMOR IN  
THE CEREBRAL  
VENTRICLE  
REALLY IS AN  
ABERRANT  
FETUS...



THEN  
THIS WOULD  
HAVE TO BE  
ONE OF HIS  
PRANKS...

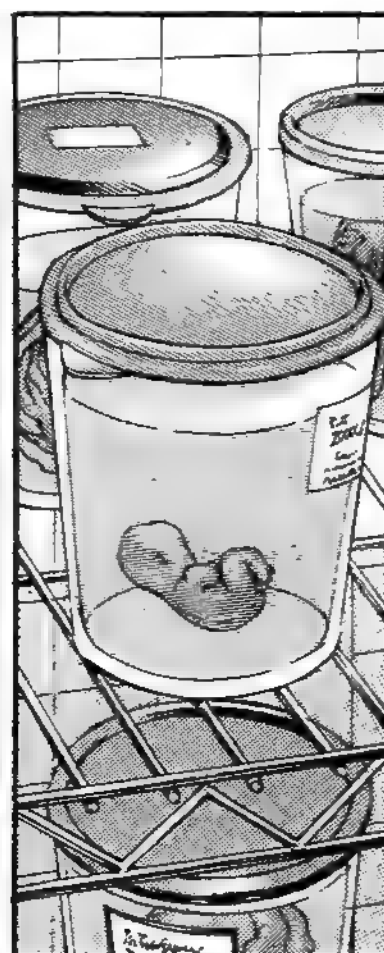
IF GOD  
REALLY  
DOES EXIST  
IN THIS  
WORLD...



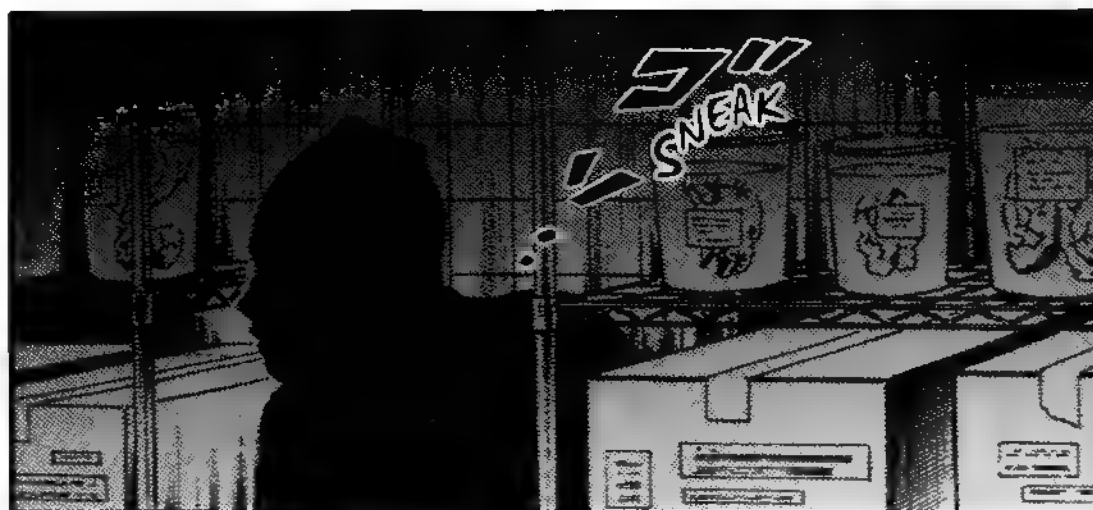




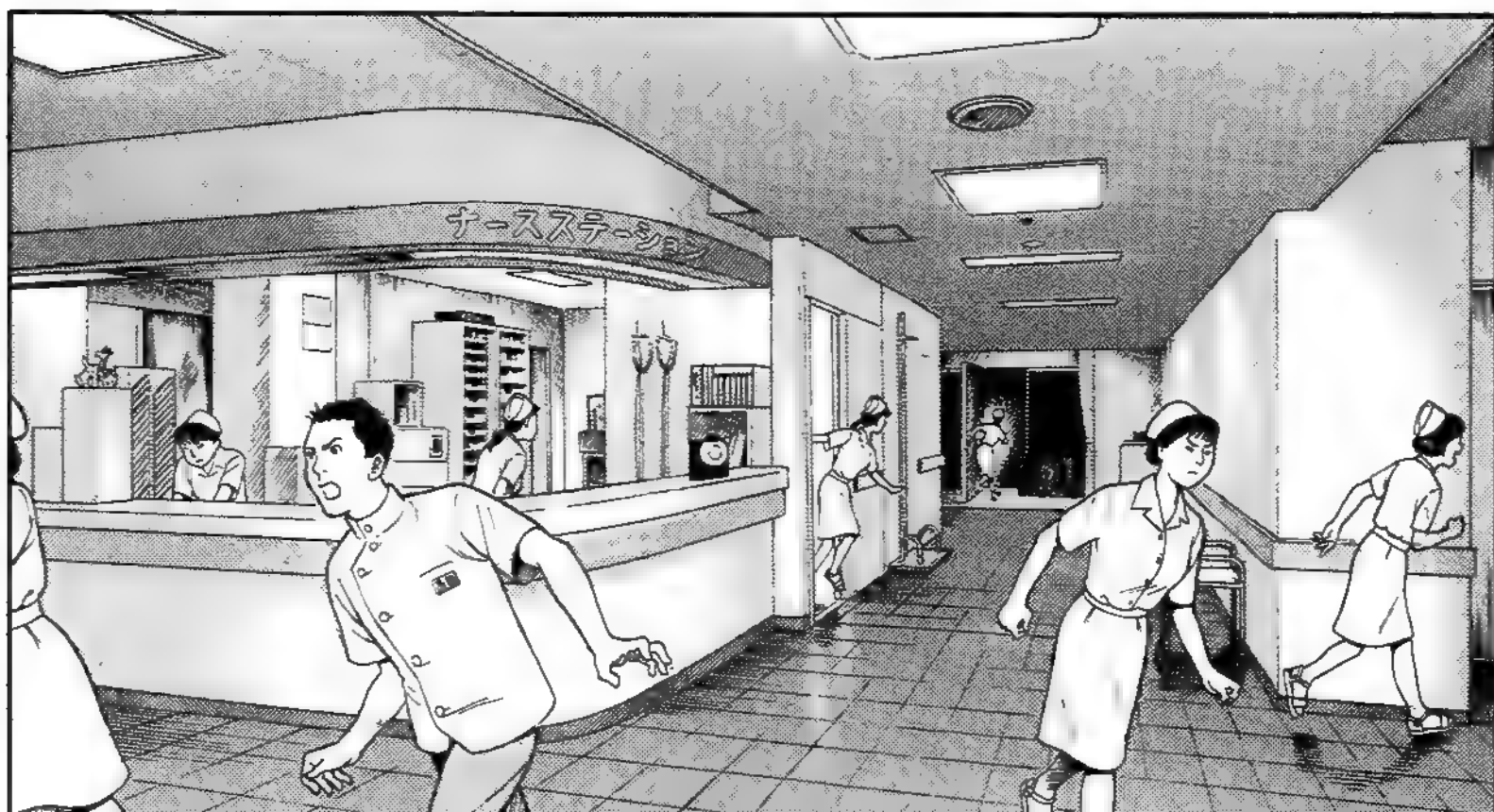
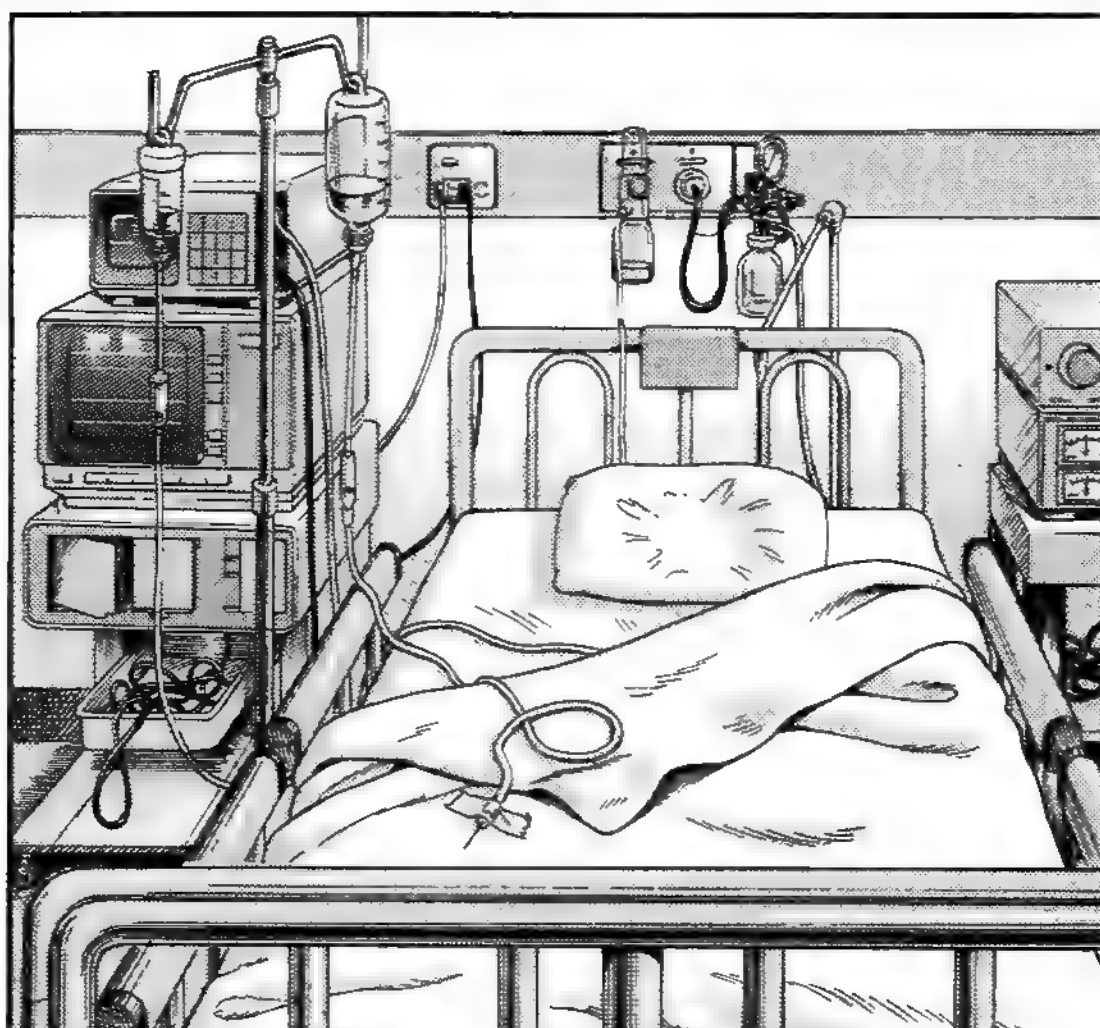
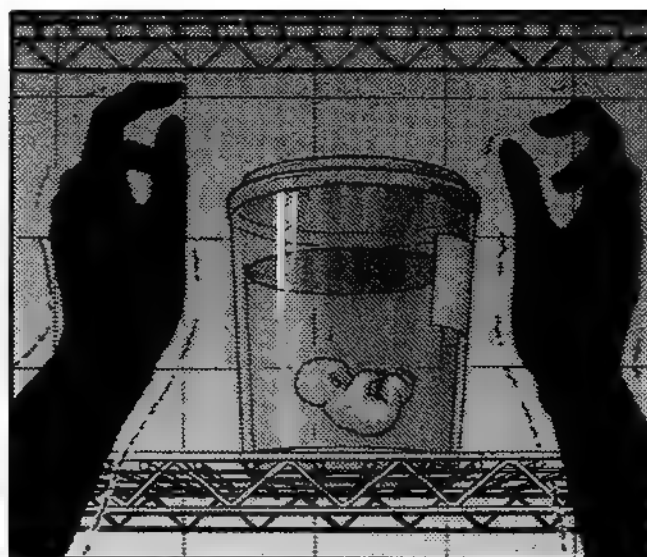
# Pathology Laboratory



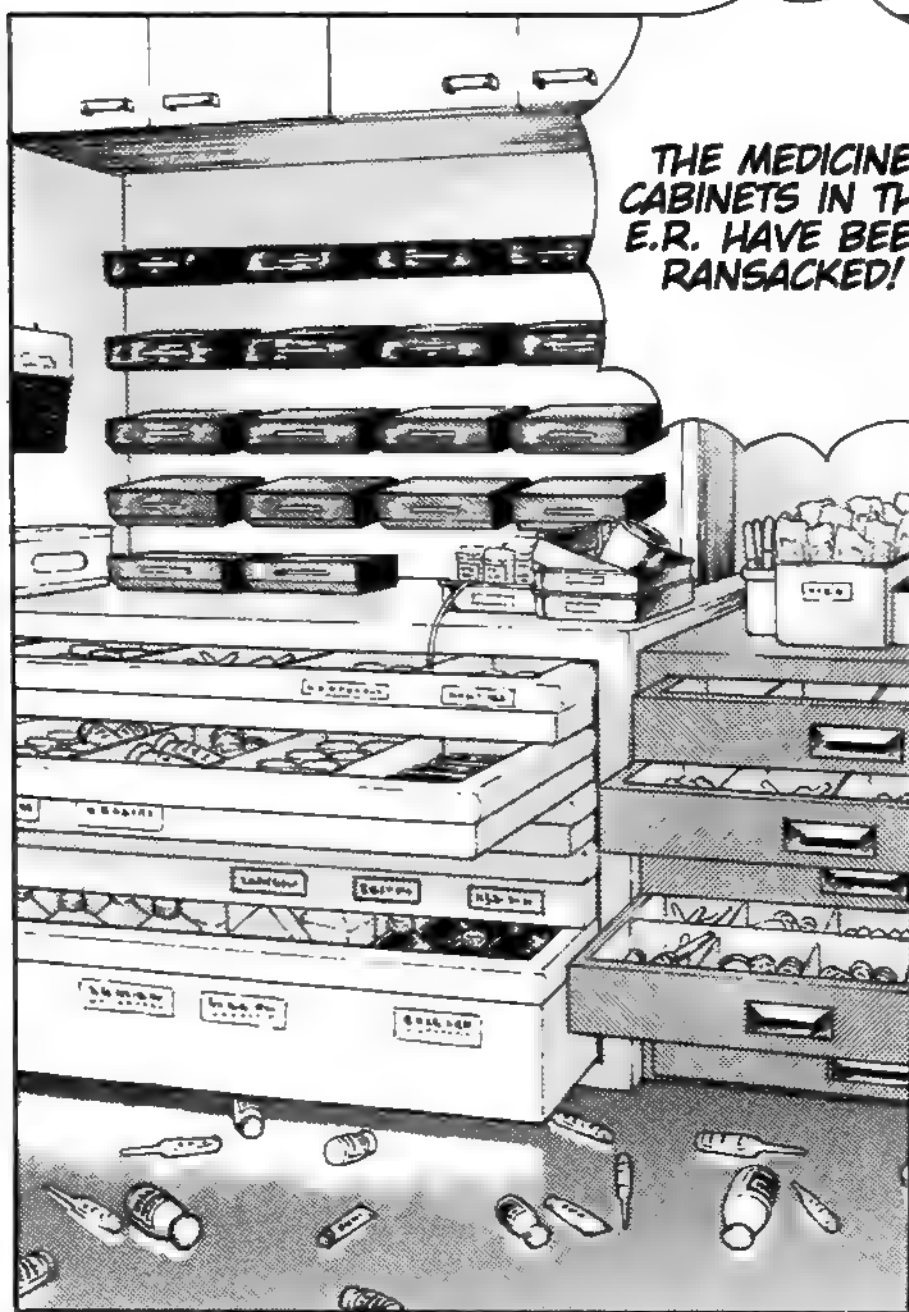




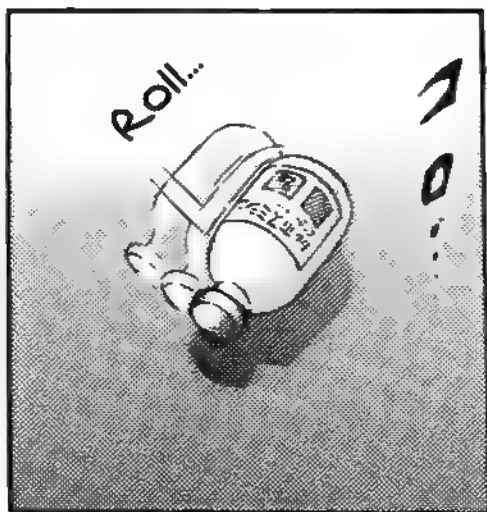




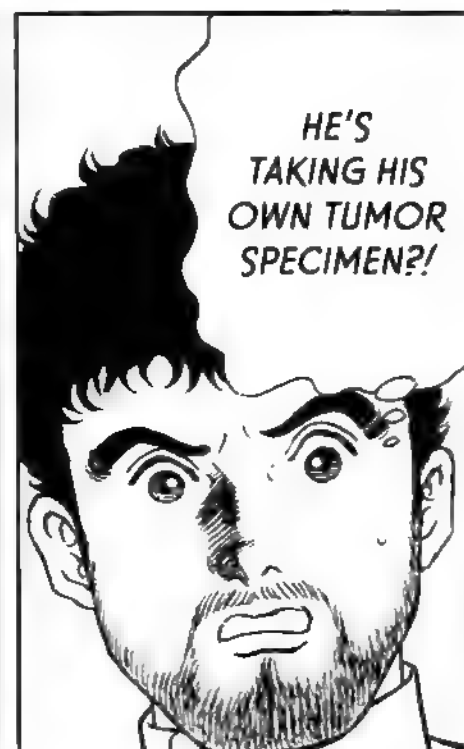


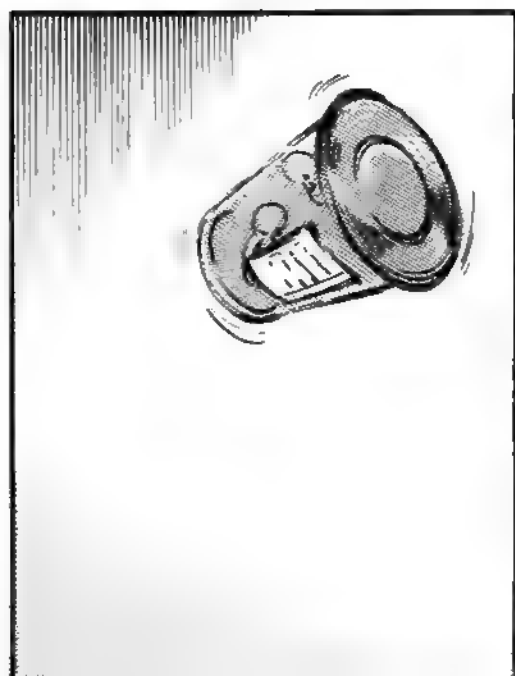
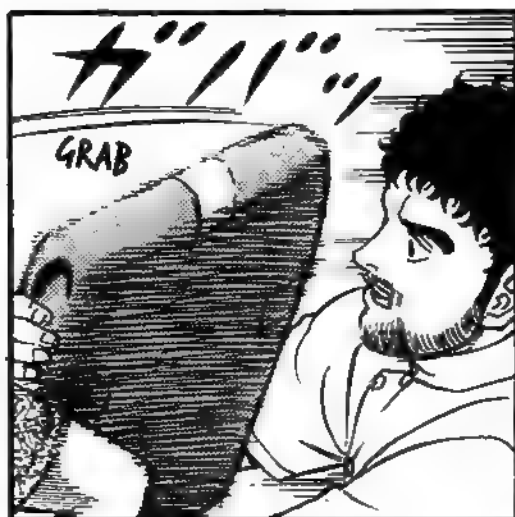




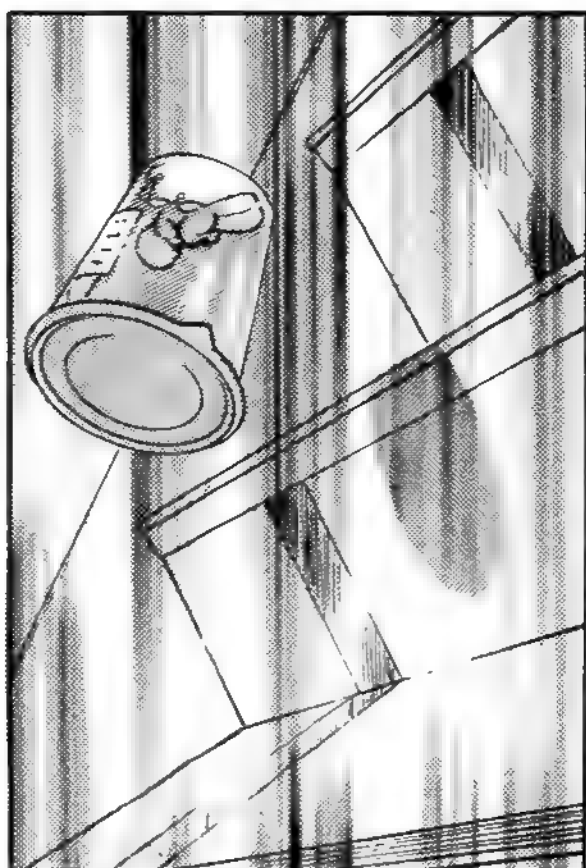
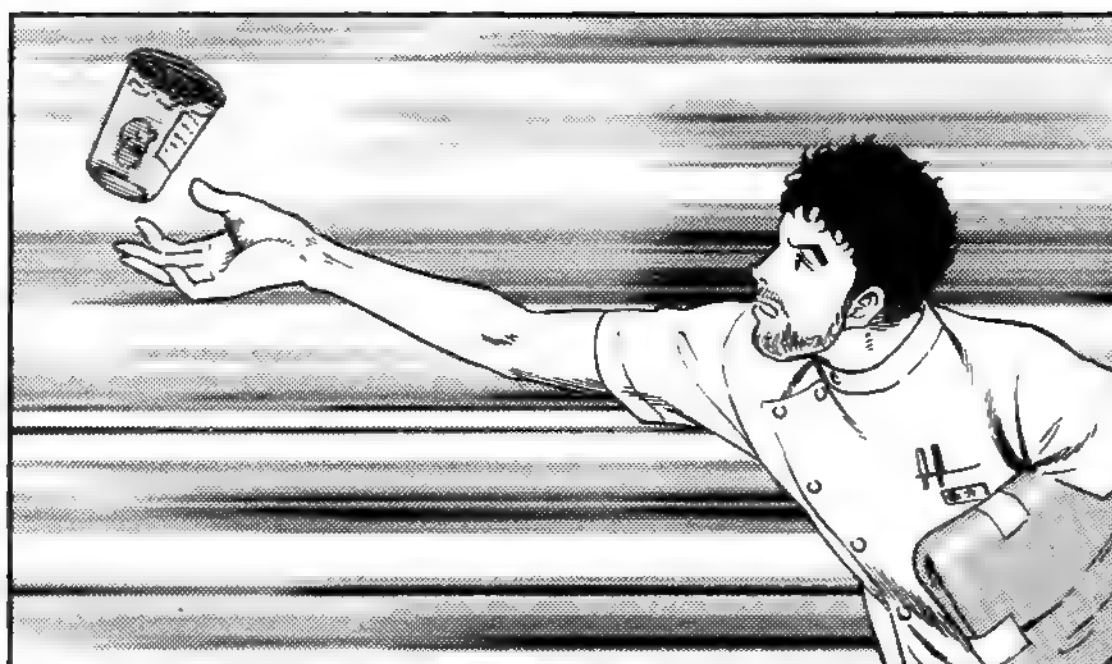












WHA...  
WHAT  
IN THE  
...?!



W

H

O

O

S

H



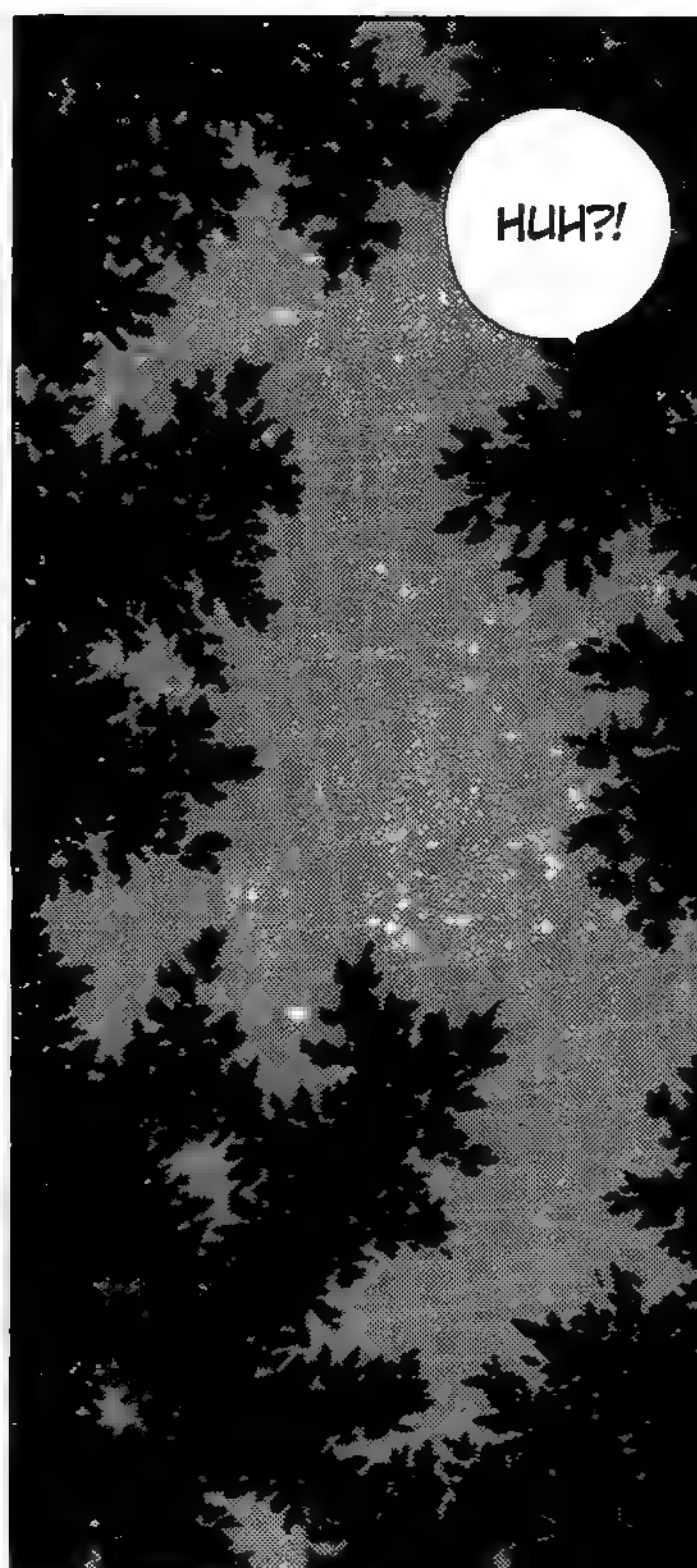
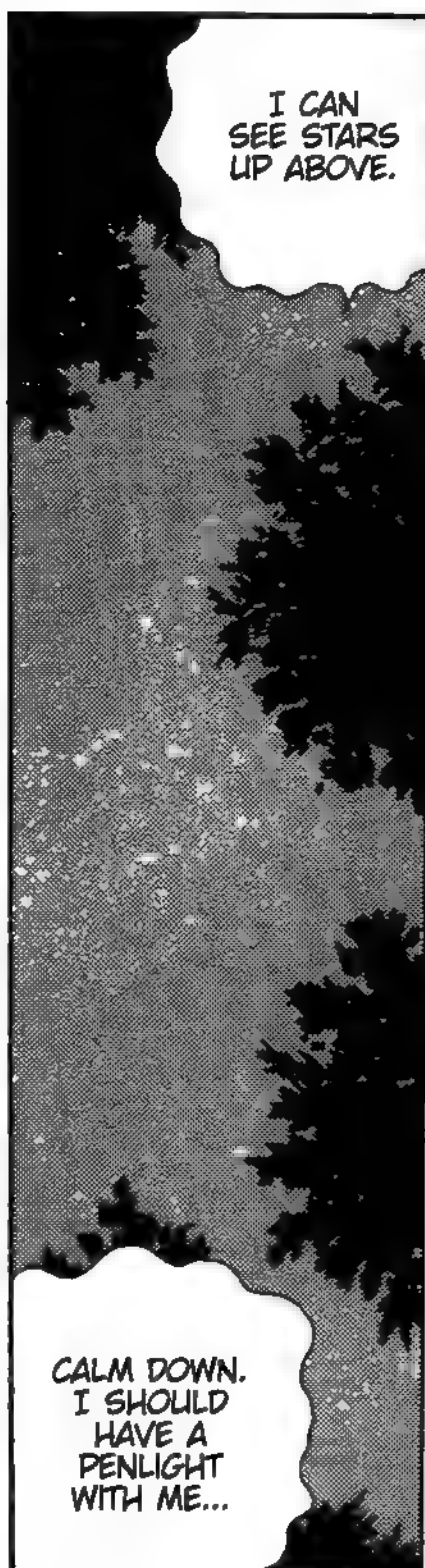


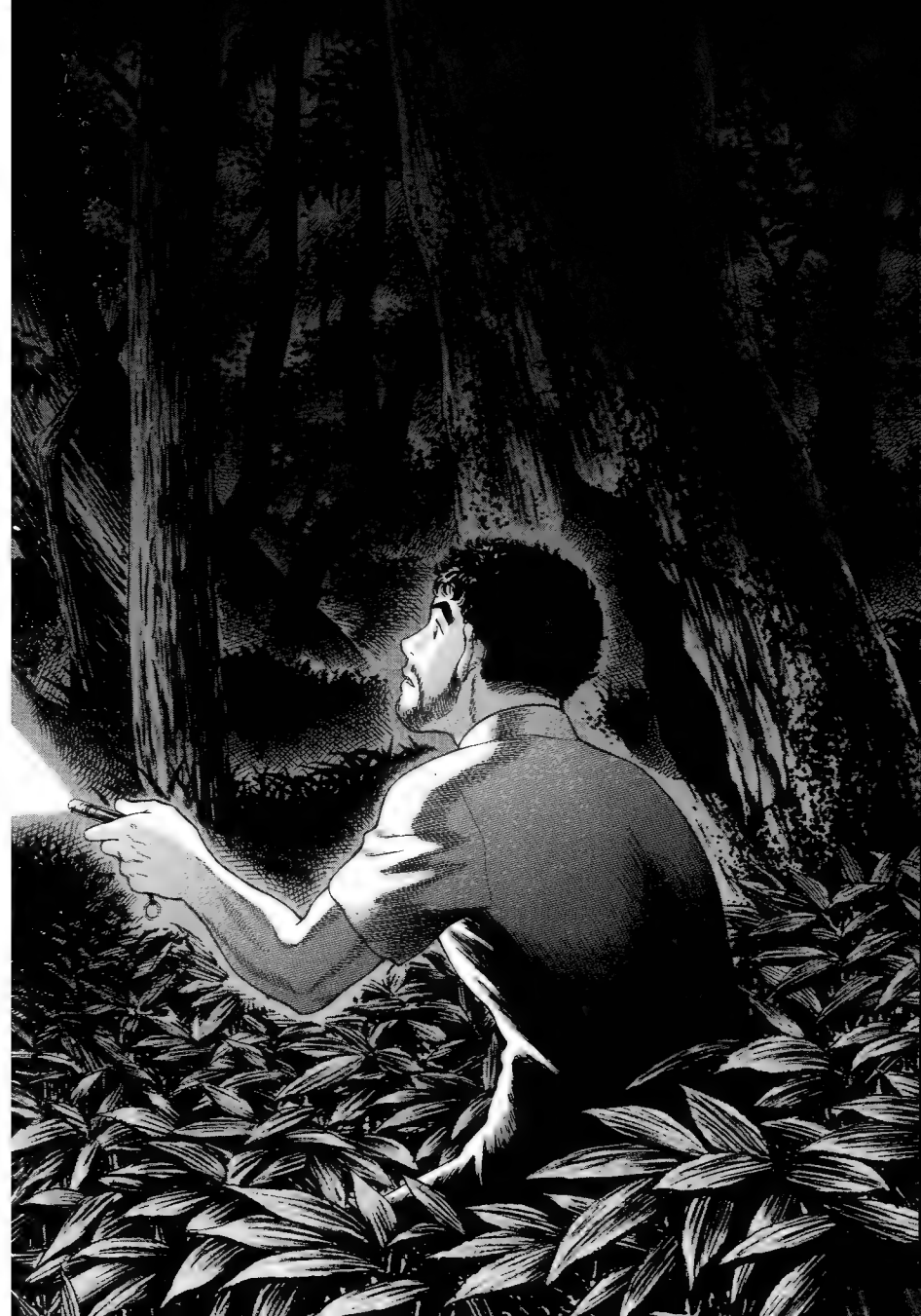


AM I FALLING?  
AM I FLYING?

AM I  
DREAMING?  
DID I DIE?











I GUESS THAT MEANS THIS ISN'T A DREAM...

Skrrch

I GOT BIT BY A FLY...



DAMN!



BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT?!

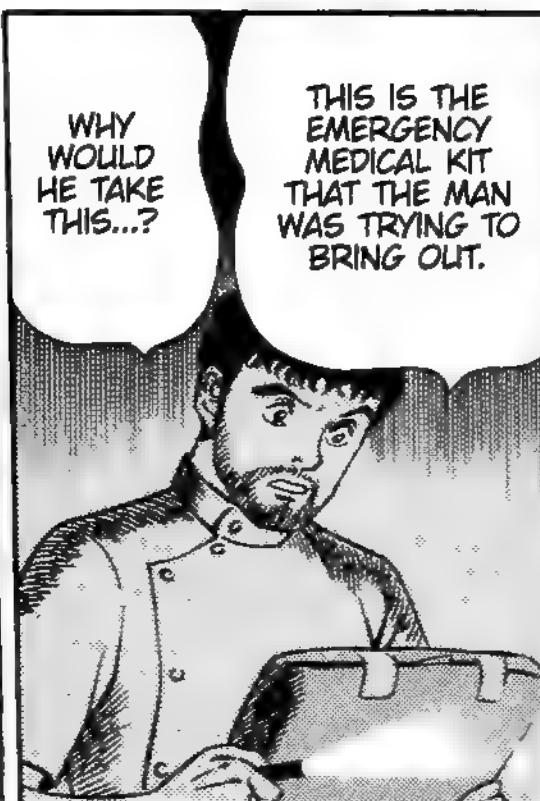


AND SOMEONE DRAGGED ME OUT HERE WHILE I WAS OUT COLD?!

WHICH MEANS THAT I MUST'VE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS BACK THEN...



HUH?!



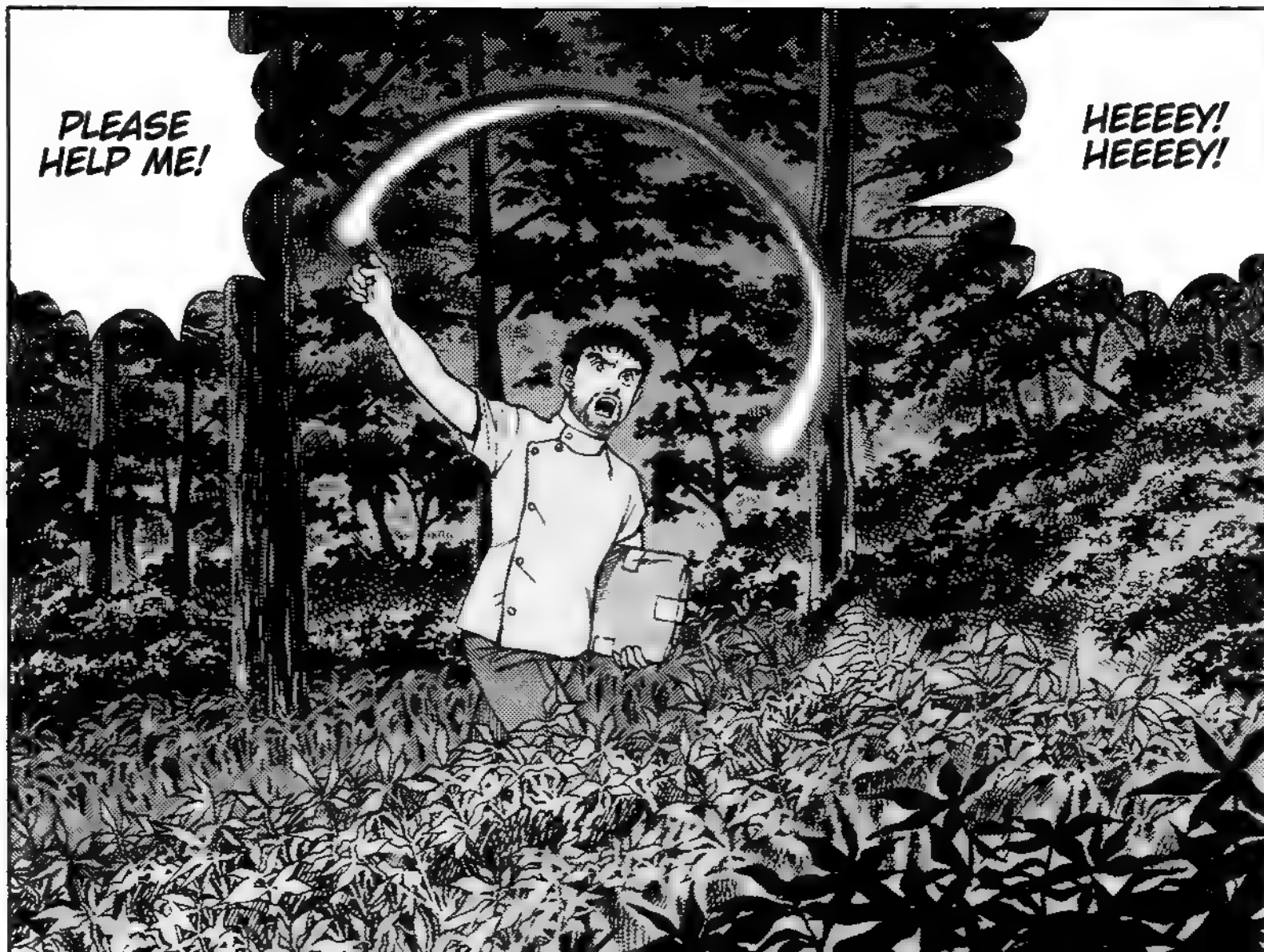
WHY WOULD HE TAKE THIS...?

THIS IS THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL KIT THAT THE MAN WAS TRYING TO BRING OUT.













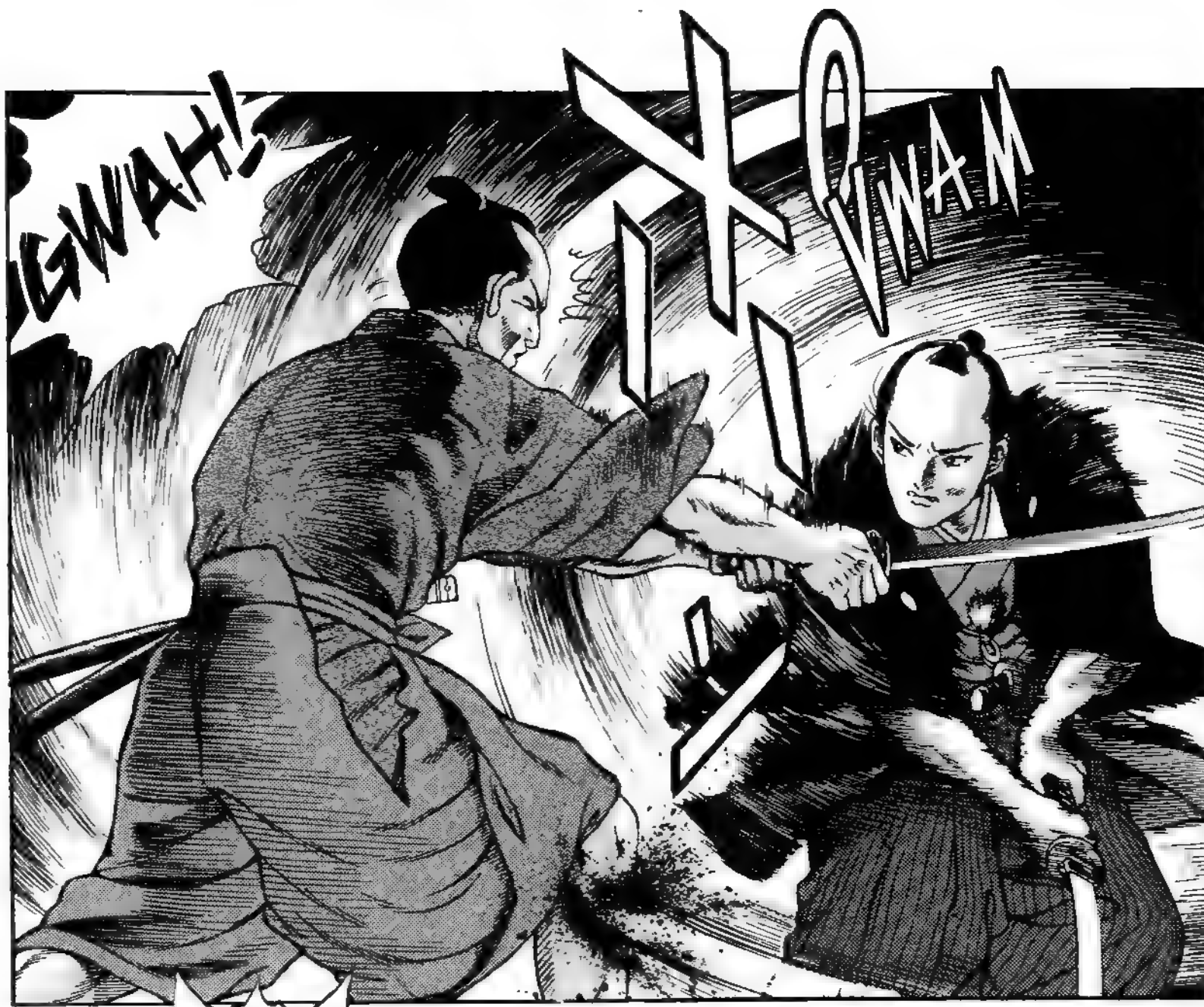


WOW...  
THEY'RE  
FILMING  
A PERIOD  
DRAMA!



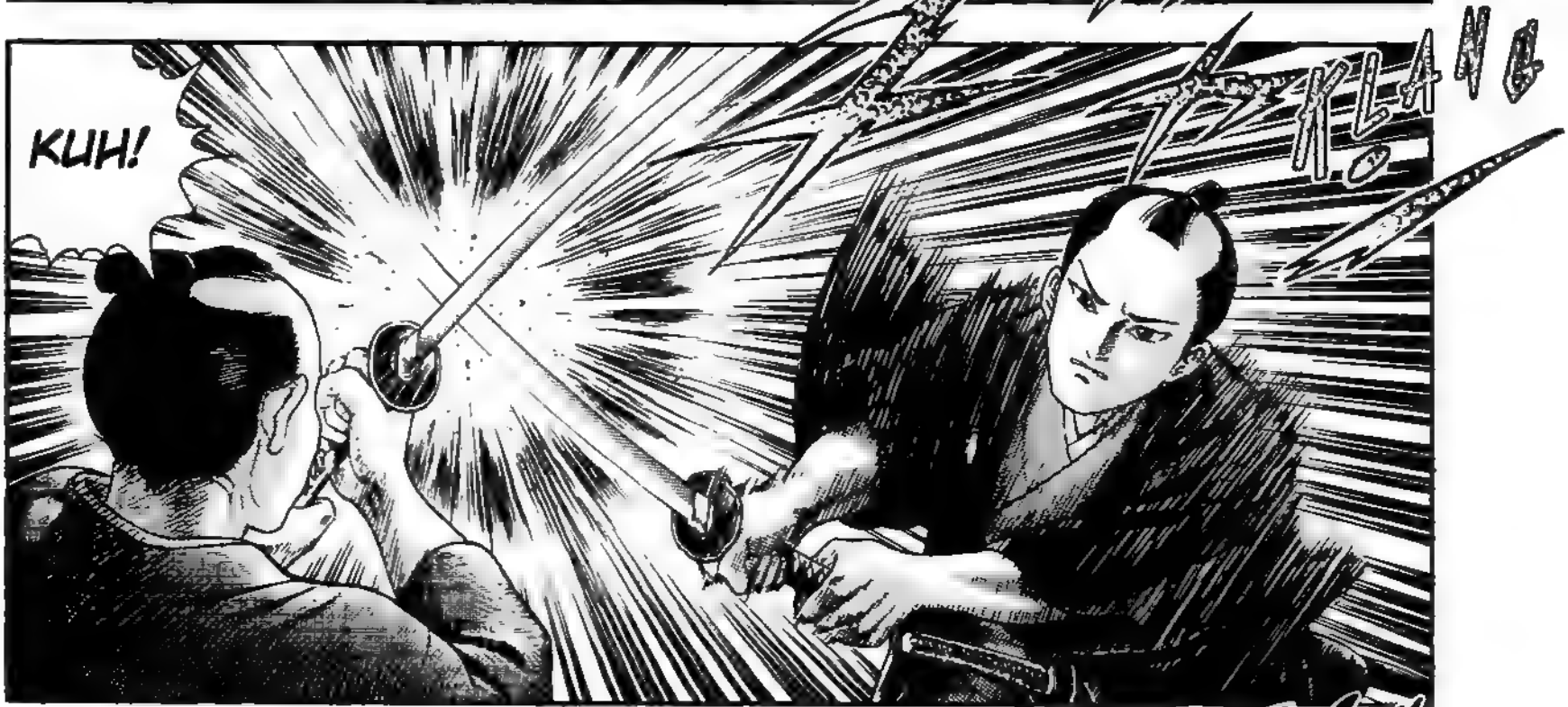
PREPARE  
YOURSELF!!



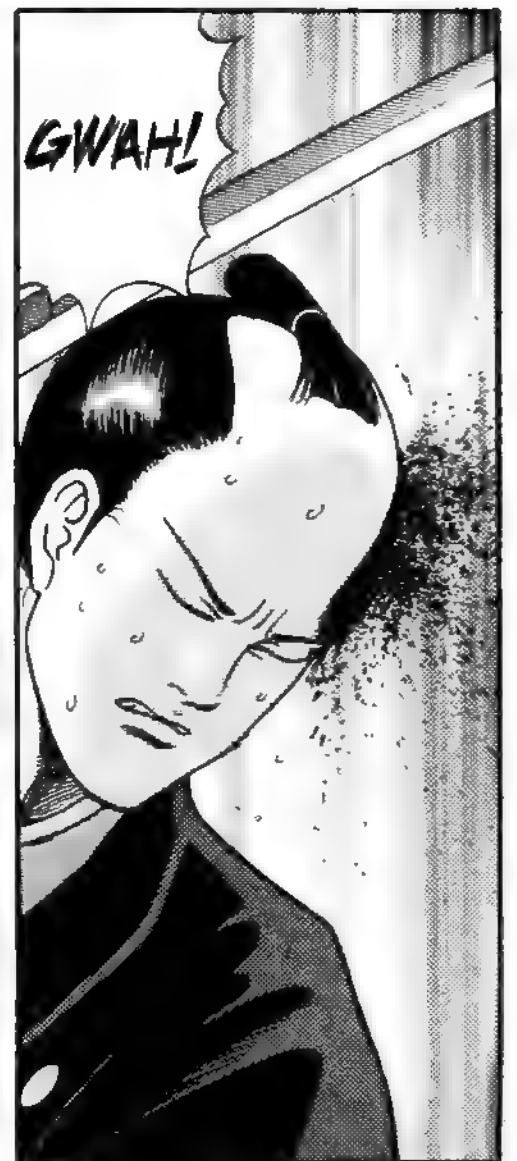








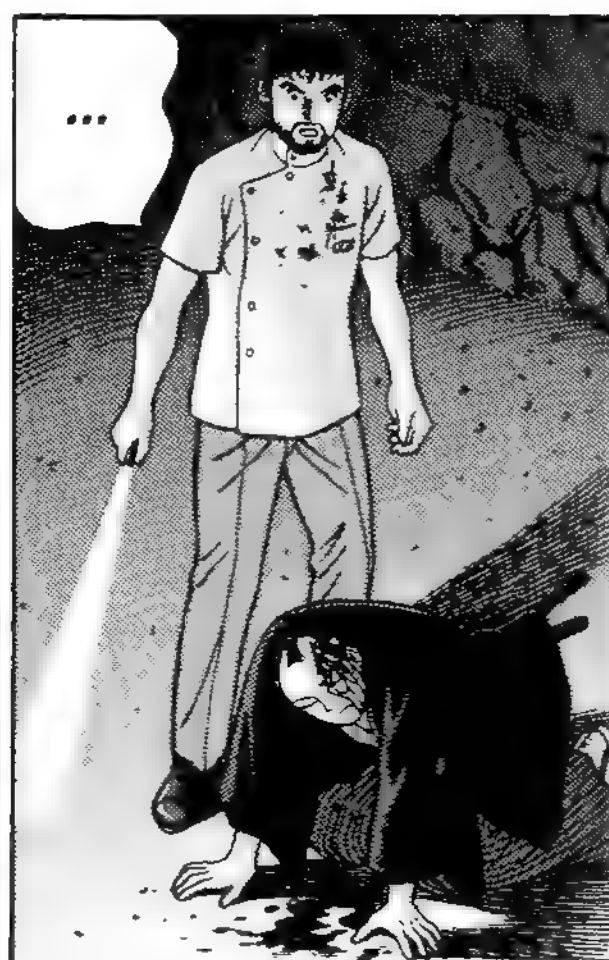








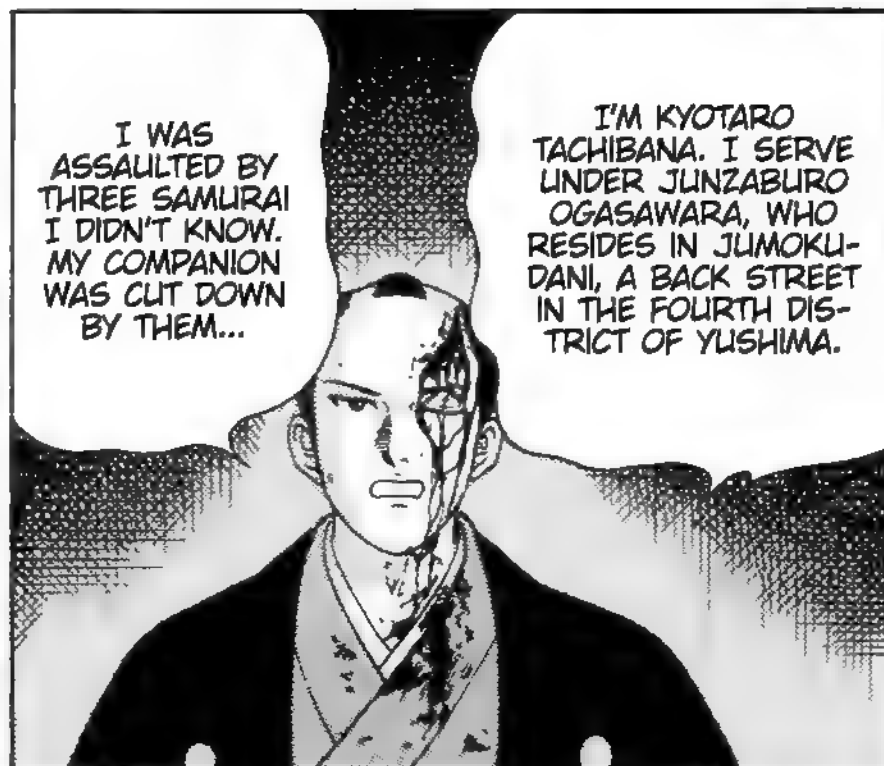








AND  
WHO IS THE  
GENTLEMAN  
THERE?

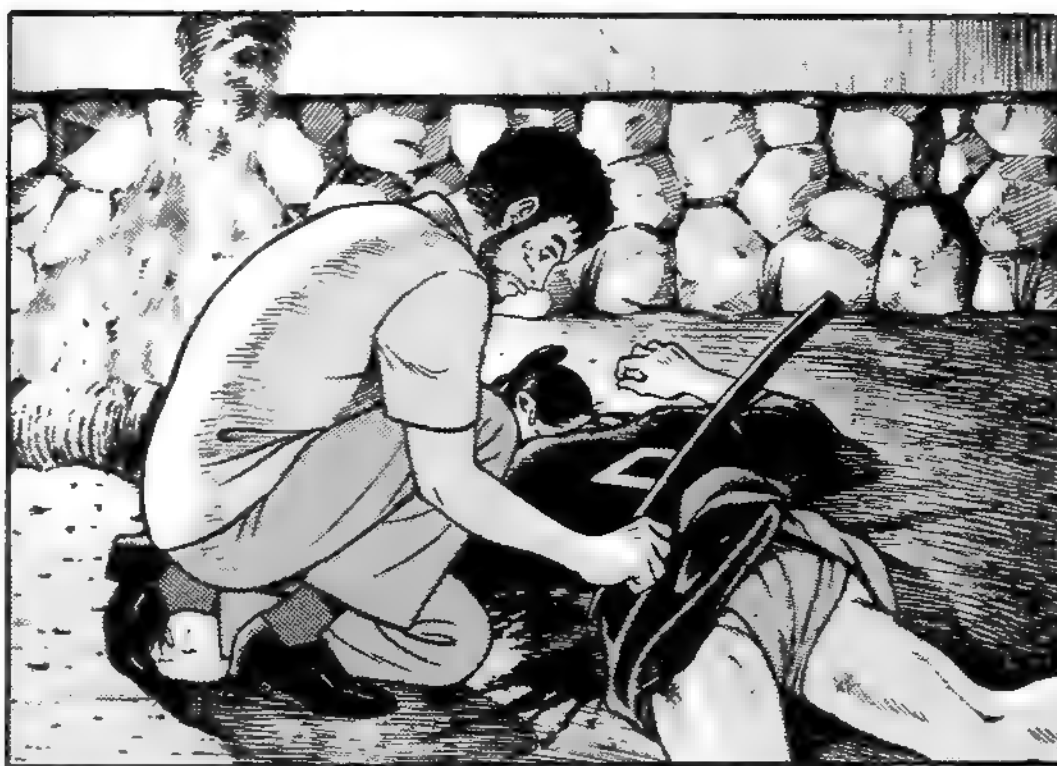


I WAS  
ASSAULTED BY  
THREE SAMURAI  
I DIDN'T KNOW.  
MY COMPANION  
WAS CUT DOWN  
BY THEM...

I'M KYOTARO  
TACHIBANA. I SERVE  
UNDER JUNZABURO  
OGASAWARA, WHO  
RESIDES IN JUMOKU-  
DANI, A BACK STREET  
IN THE FOURTH DIS-  
TRICT OF YUSHIMA.



BRUTAL...



?!



UGH...!

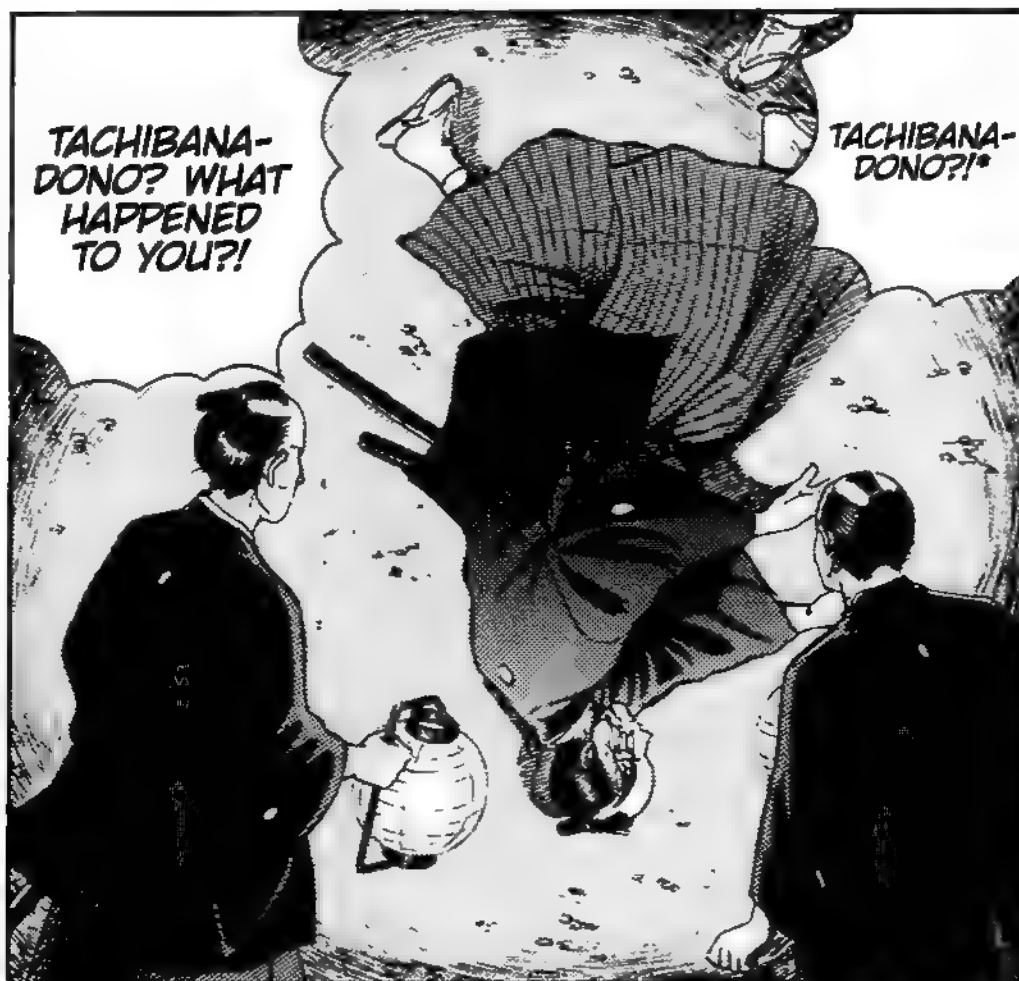


BUT  
THAT MAN  
SAVED MY  
LIFE.

I'M NOT  
SURE WHO  
HE IS...



LET ME  
TAKE A  
LOOK!



TACHIBANA-  
DONO? WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU?!

TACHIBANA-  
DONO?!

\*AN HONORIFIC FOR "LORD" OR "MASTER," BUT IT DOES NOT DENOTE NOBILITY.



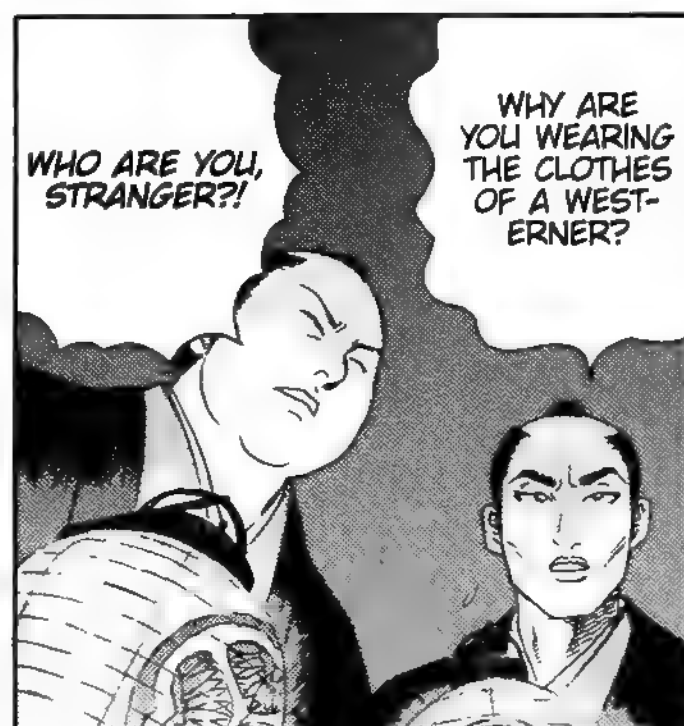
IF SO, THERE'S  
A GOOD CHANCE  
THAT HE HAS AN  
ACUTE EPIDURAL  
HEMATOMA...

THE EXTERIOR  
WOUND ON HIS  
FRONTAL REGION  
IS PRETTY DEEP...  
THE PERIOD OF TIME  
IN WHICH HE WAS ABLE  
TO STAND AND REMAIN  
CONSCIOUS AFTER HIS  
INJURY MUST HAVE  
BEEN A LUCID  
INTERVAL...



IT'S GOING  
TO BE TOO LATE  
IF I DON'T TREAT  
HIM RIGHT AWAY.  
PLEASE CARRY HIM  
IMMEDIATELY!

I'M A  
DOCTOR!



WHO ARE YOU,  
STRANGER?!

WHY ARE  
YOU WEARING  
THE CLOTHES  
OF A WEST-  
ERNER?





AND A VERY  
REALISTIC ONE.



IF THIS IS  
ALL JUST A  
DREAM, THEN  
IT'S A VERY  
LONG ONE.



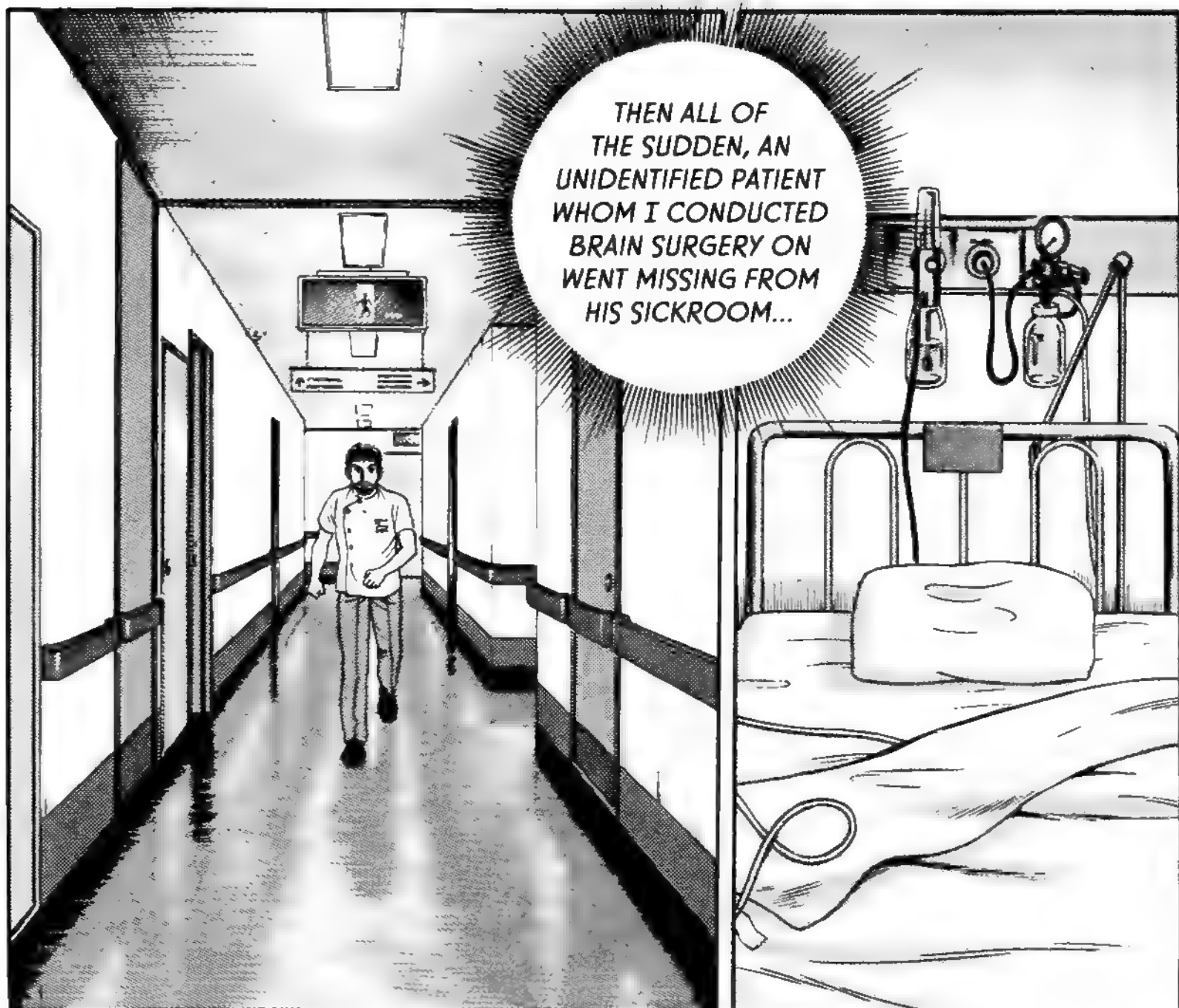
ONLY  
A MOMENT  
AGO, I WAS AT  
THE UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL I  
WORK AT.

THERE  
WAS A CITY  
OF BUILDINGS  
FILLED WITH  
LIGHT...

ACROSS  
FROM THE  
HOSPITAL,



THEN ALL OF  
THE SUDDEN, AN  
UNIDENTIFIED PATIENT  
WHOM I CONDUCTED  
BRAIN SURGERY ON  
WENT MISSING FROM  
HIS SICKROOM...



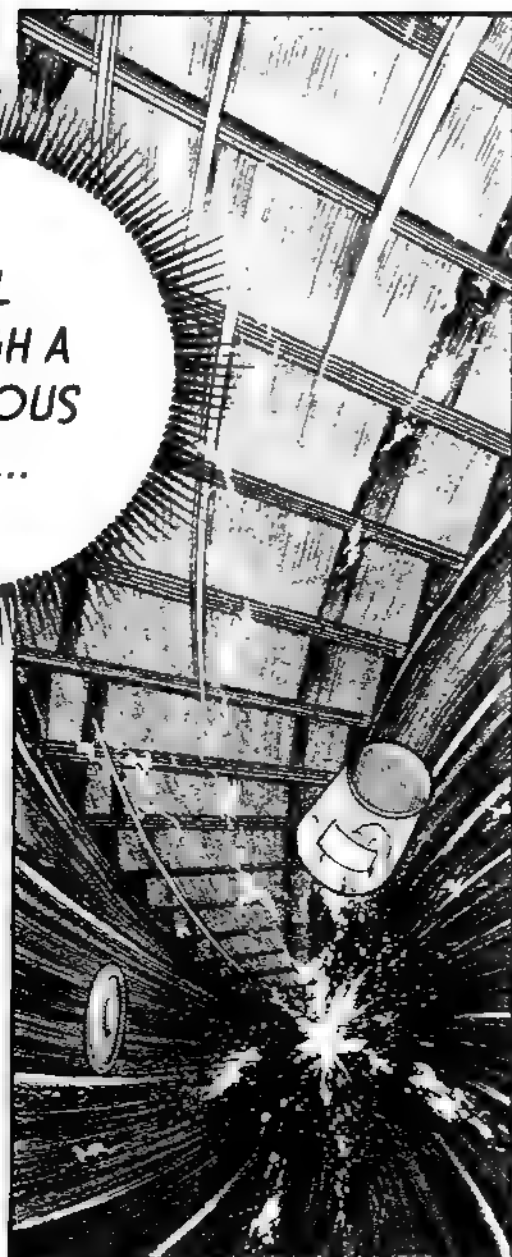




...AND  
THEN...



I FELL  
THROUGH A  
MYSTERIOUS  
SPACE...



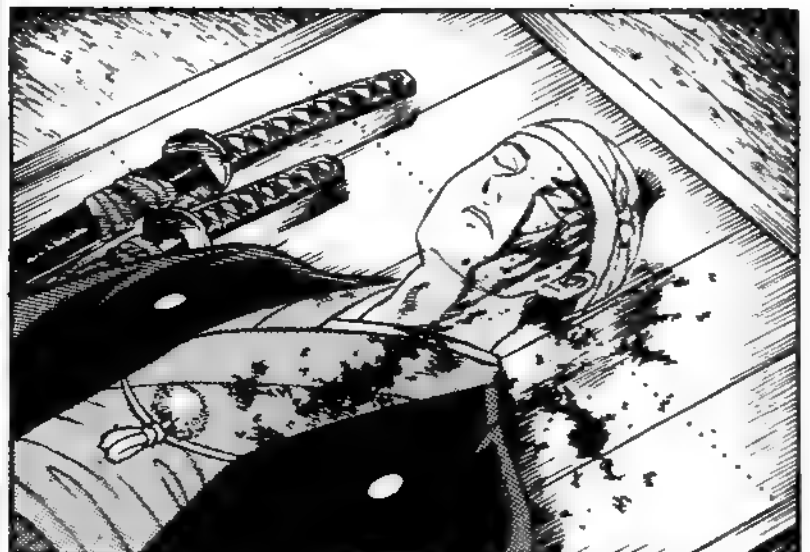


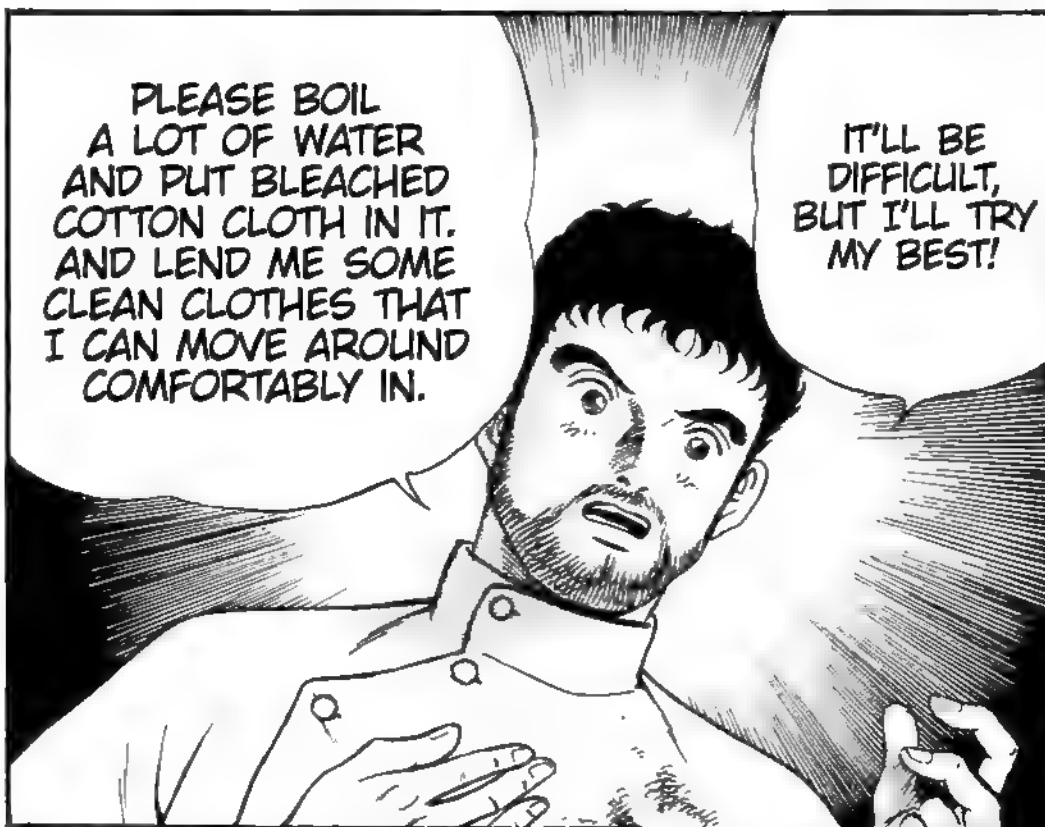
AND WHEN  
I CAME TO,  
I WAS HERE.



THERE'S  
NOWHERE ELSE  
THIS CAN BE BUT  
EDO PERIOD  
JAPAN...





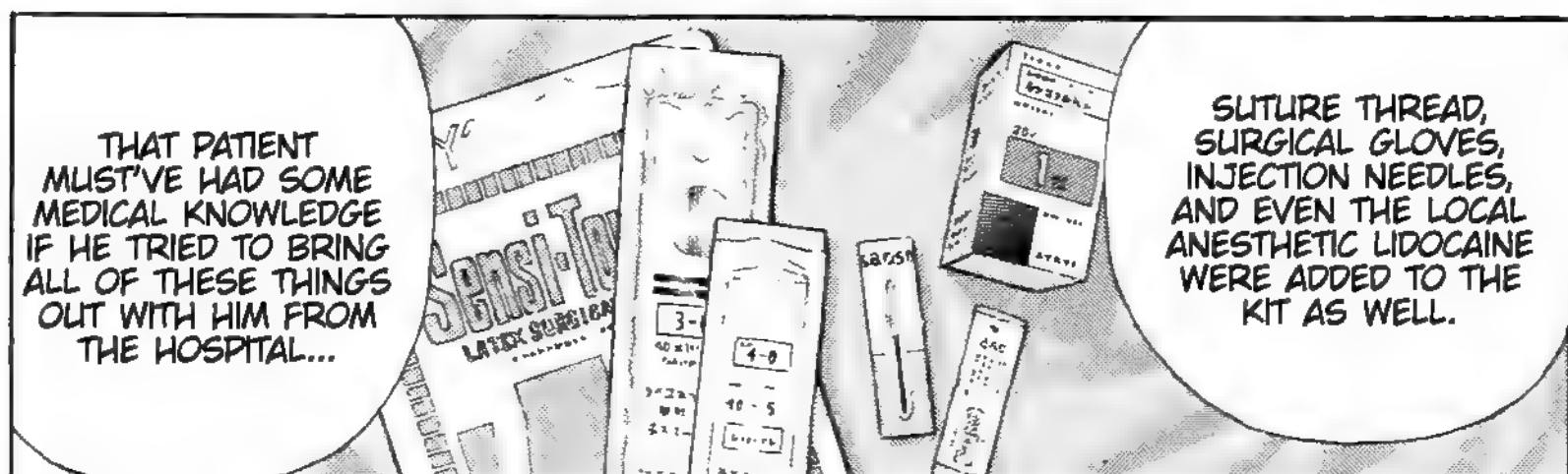
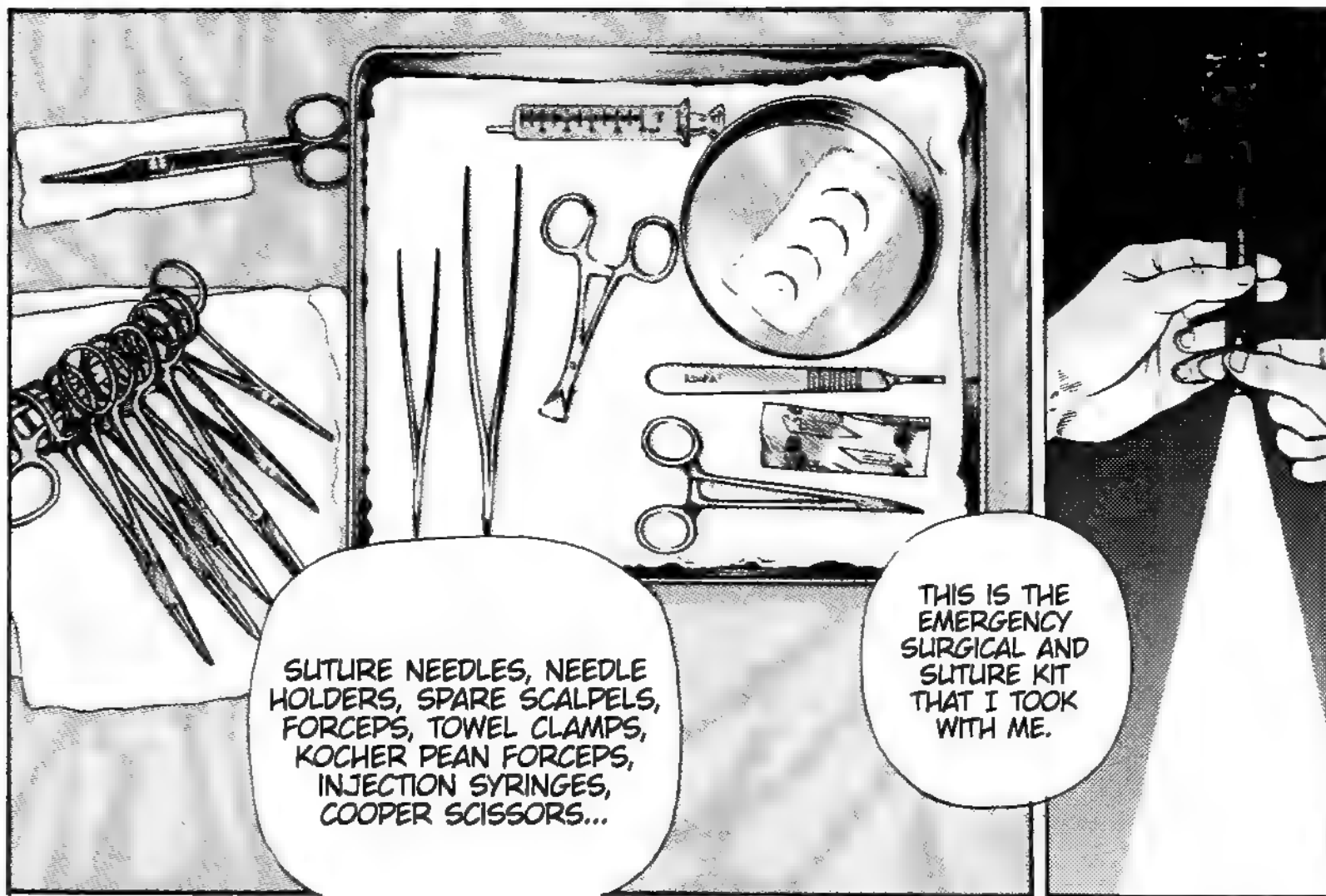


\*WESTERN MEDICINE INTRODUCED TO JAPAN BY THE DUTCH.



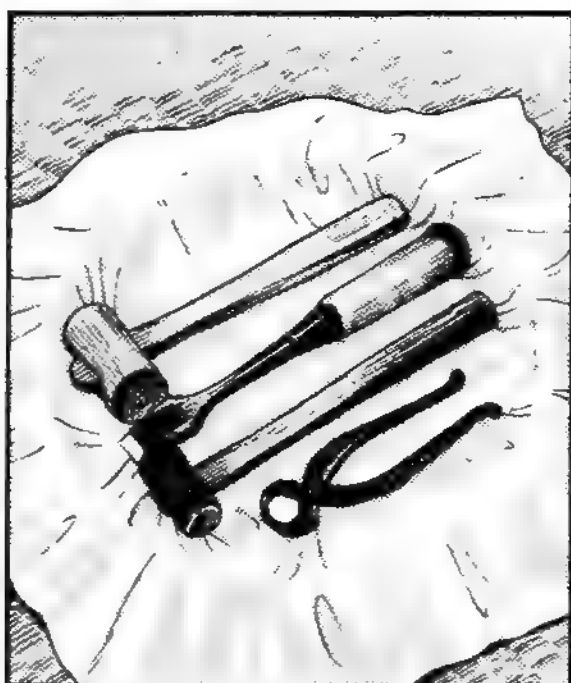
















ON TOP OF THAT,  
IT IS SAID THAT 60%  
OF THE OPENED SKULLS  
HAD MARKS OF BONE  
REGENERATION AROUND  
THE SURGICAL HOLES.  
THAT PROVES THAT THEY  
SURVIVED AFTER  
THE SURGERY...

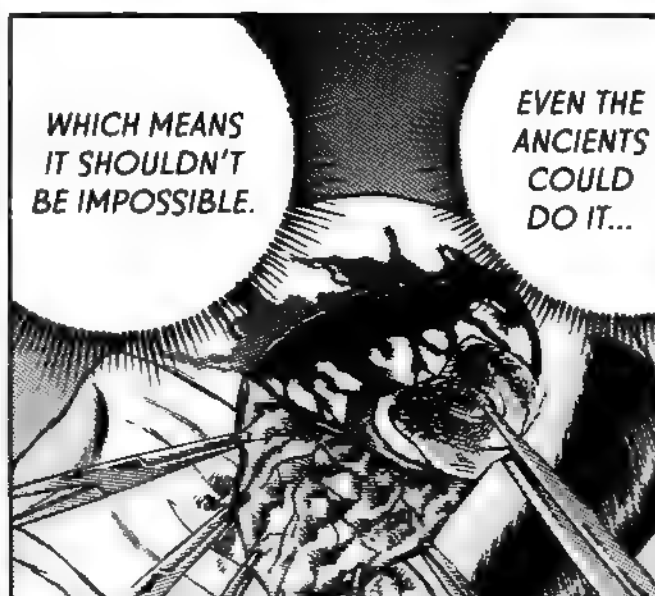
SKULLS FROM ANCIENT PERU THAT SHOW LARGE HOLES FROM CRANIOTOMIES



?!



SLIDE



WHICH MEANS  
IT SHOULDN'T  
BE IMPOSSIBLE.

EVEN THE  
ANCIENTS  
COULD  
DO IT...



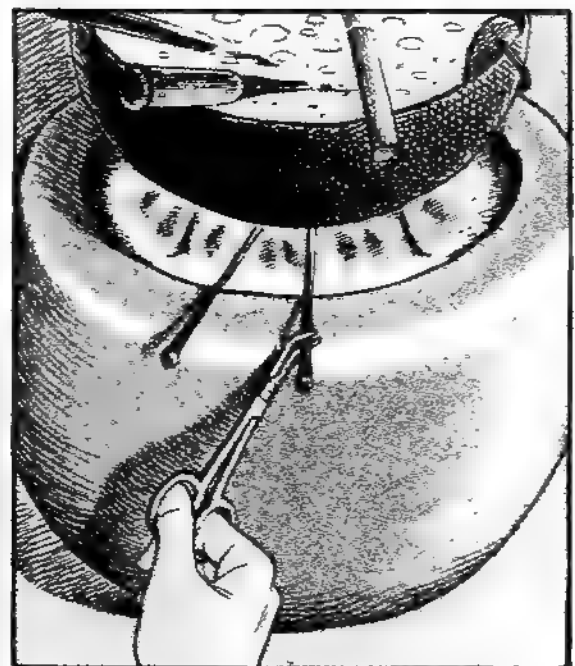
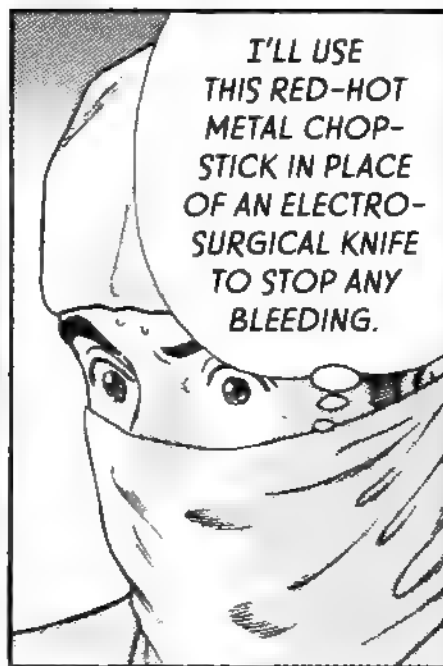
PLEASE DON'T  
COME INSIDE THE  
ROOM. I WANT TO  
KEEP IT AS CLEAN AS  
POSSIBLE DURING  
THE SURGERY.

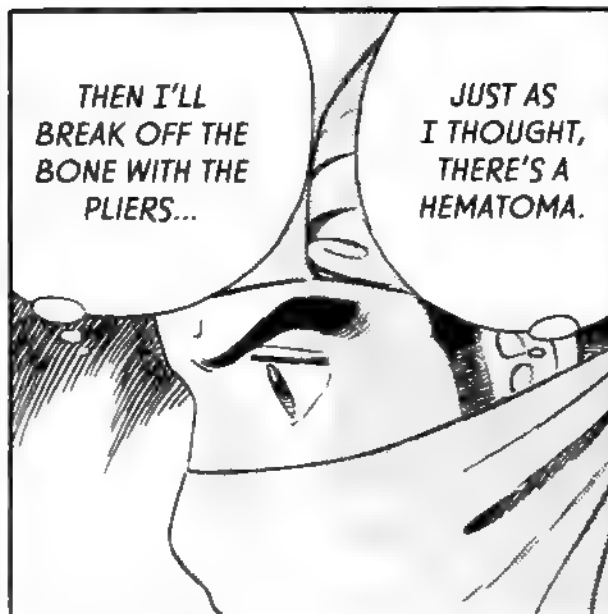


THOK!







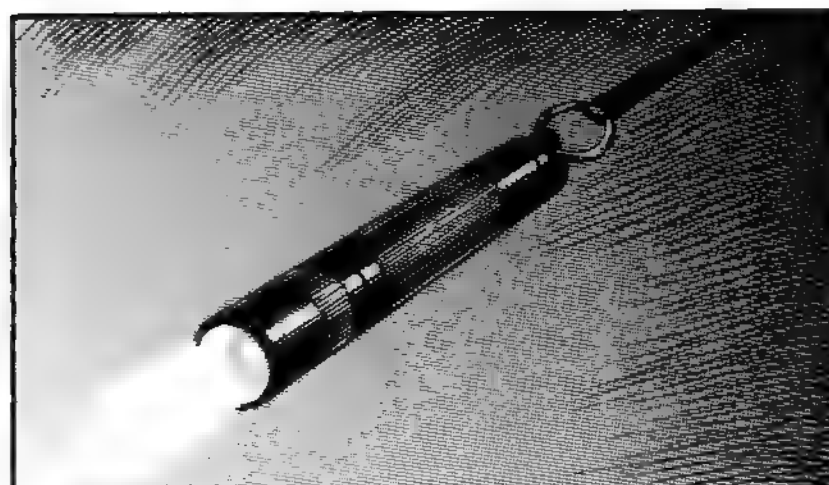
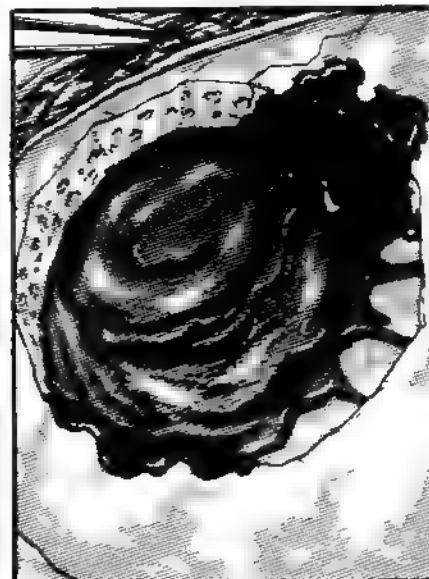
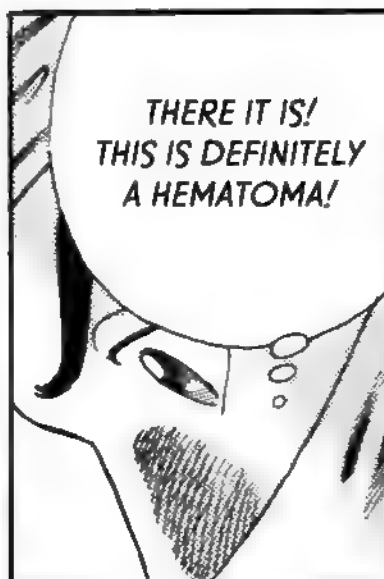


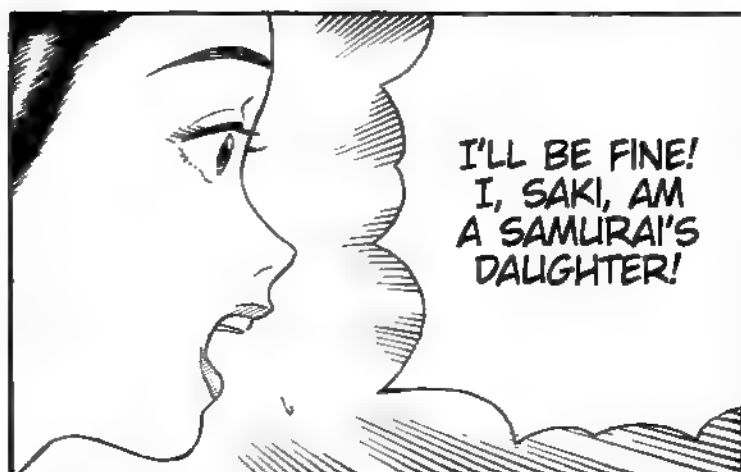
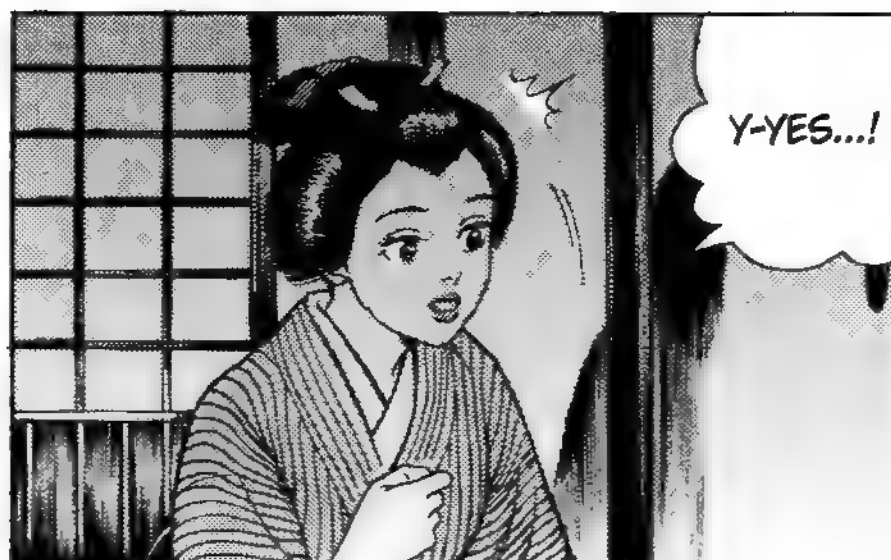




IF YOU  
DON'T WANT  
HIM TO DIE,  
STAY STILL!

DON'T MOVE!  
BE QUIET!



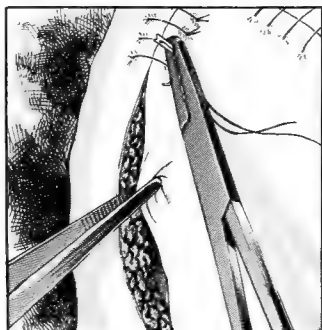




SO WE SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO EXPECT  
A SWIFT RECOVERY.



LUCKILY, THE PATIENT  
DIDN'T HAVE ANY COMPLICATIONS  
FROM CEREBRAL CONTUSIONS OR  
SUBDURAL HEMORRHAGING,



THE DAY IS  
BREAKING  
SOON.

IT'S THE  
BELL FOR  
THE TIME  
OF THE  
TIGER\*.



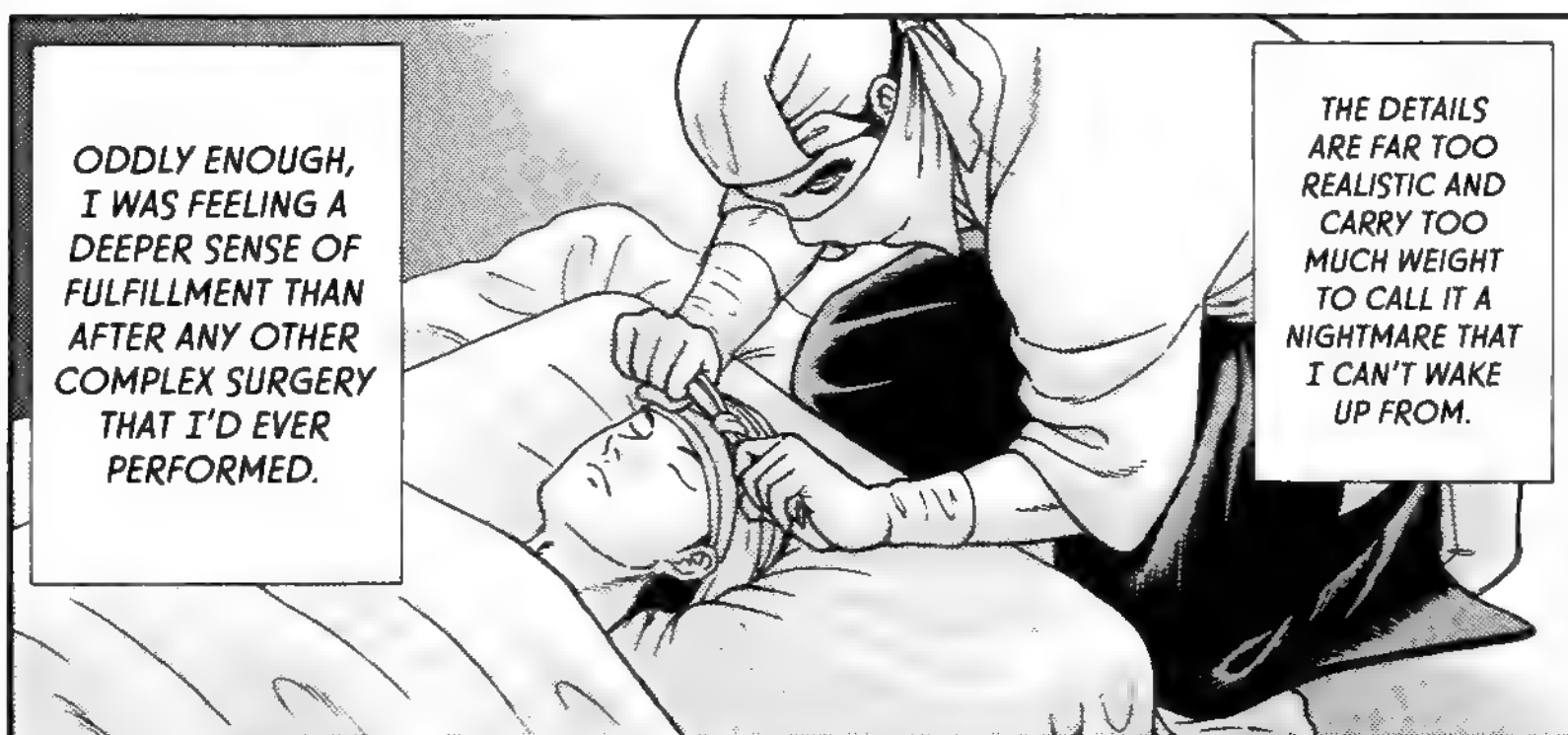
\*AROUND 4 IN THE MORNING



\*A SASH FOR TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES.







\*A FISHERMAN FROM A FOLK TALE WHO EVENTUALLY FINDS HIMSELF 300 YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

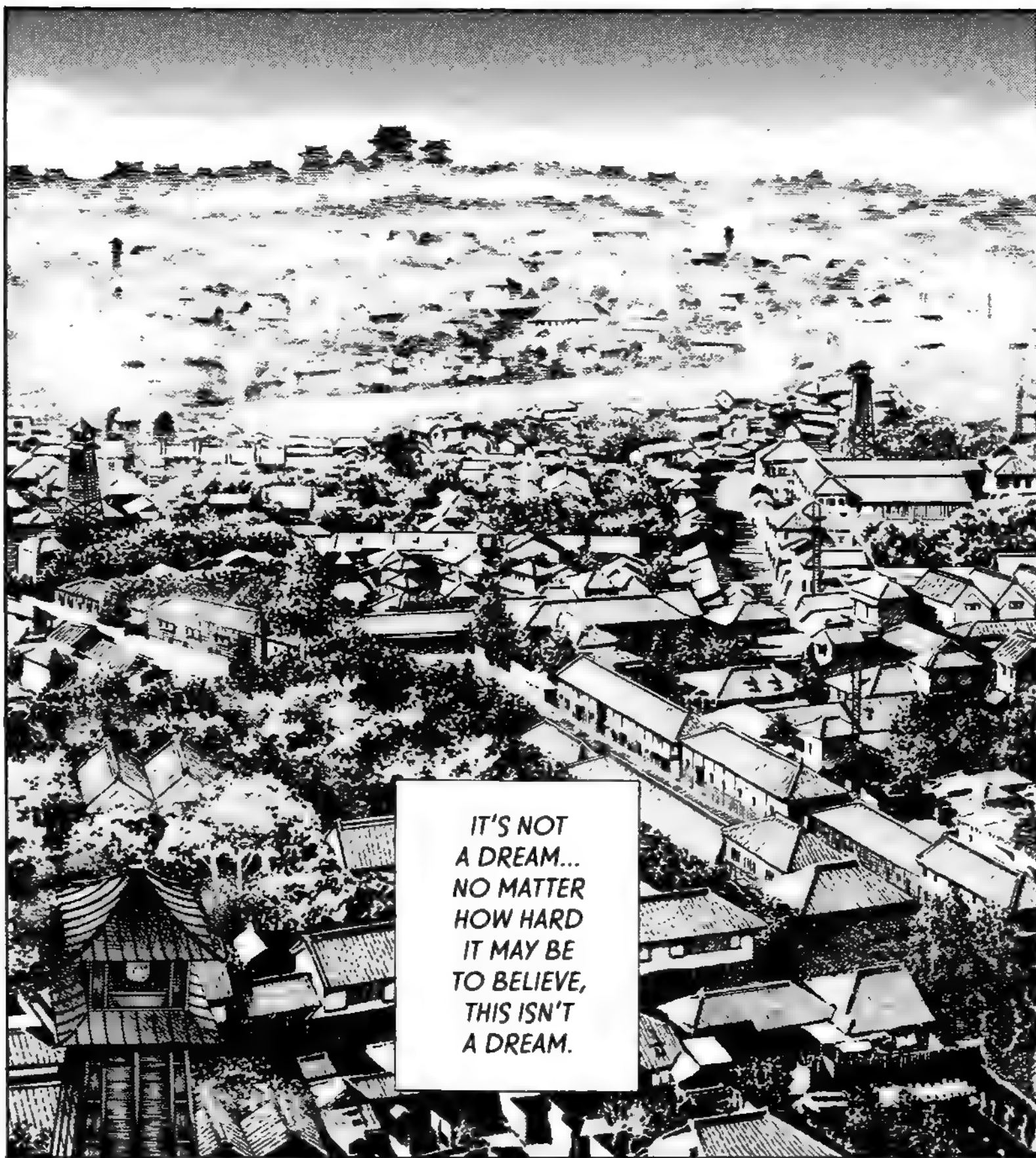


\*A JAPANESE ERA NAME SPANNING FROM MARCH 1861 TO 1864.



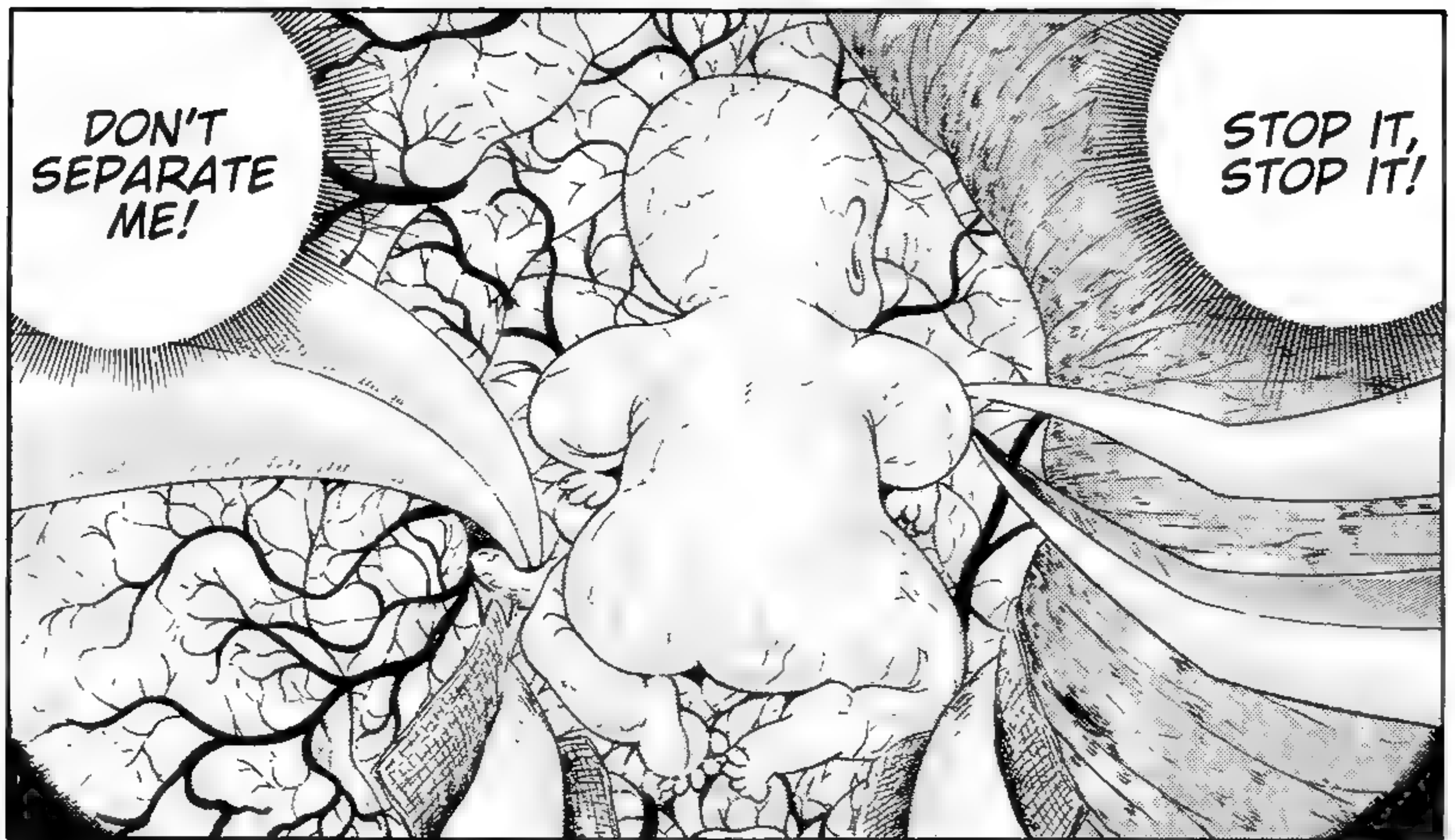
THIS IS  
A WORLD  
138 YEARS  
BEFORE  
THE YEAR  
2000?!

IT'S  
1862!



IT'S NOT  
A DREAM...  
NO MATTER  
HOW HARD  
IT MAY BE  
TO BELIEVE,  
THIS ISN'T  
A DREAM.



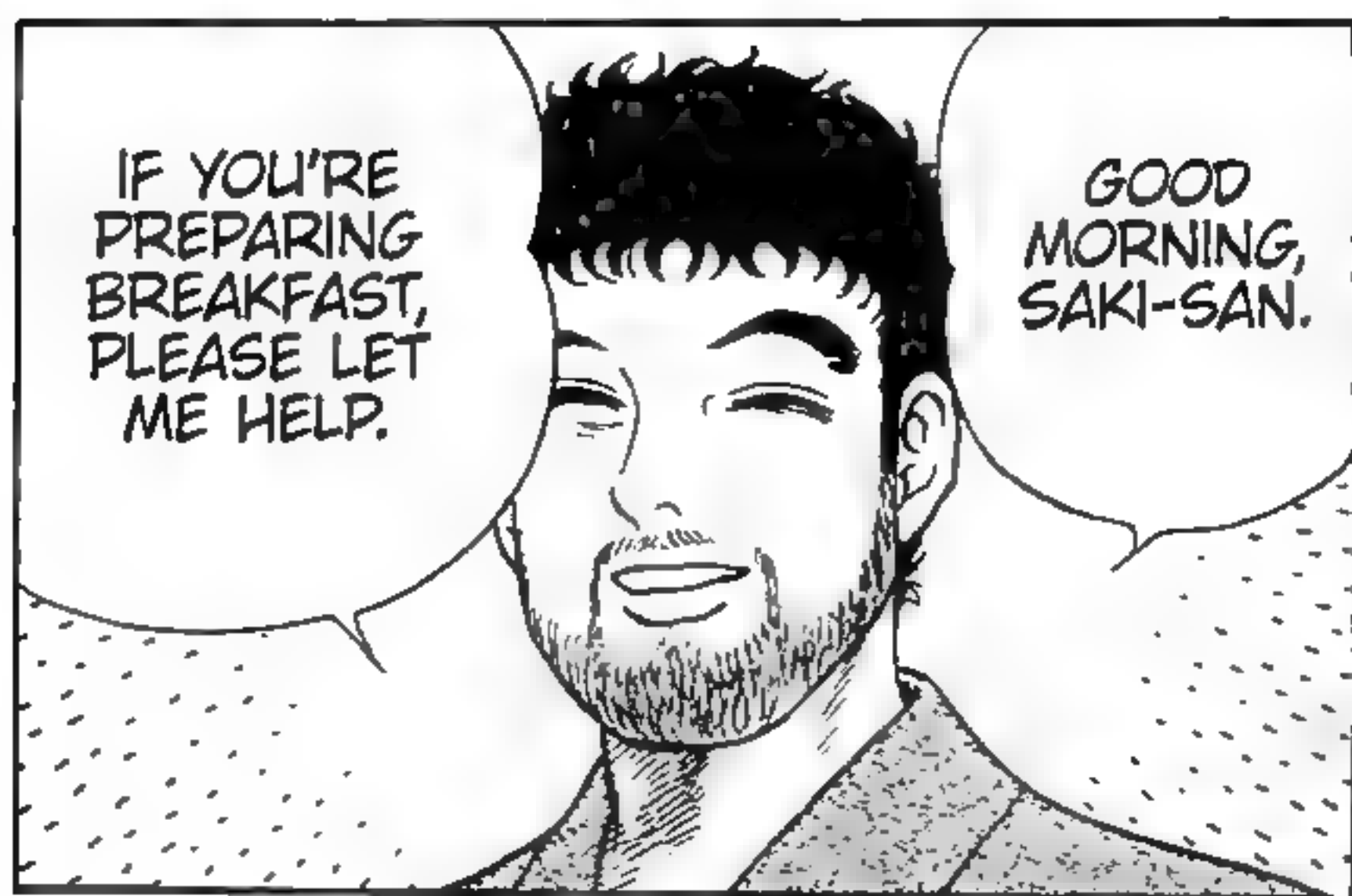




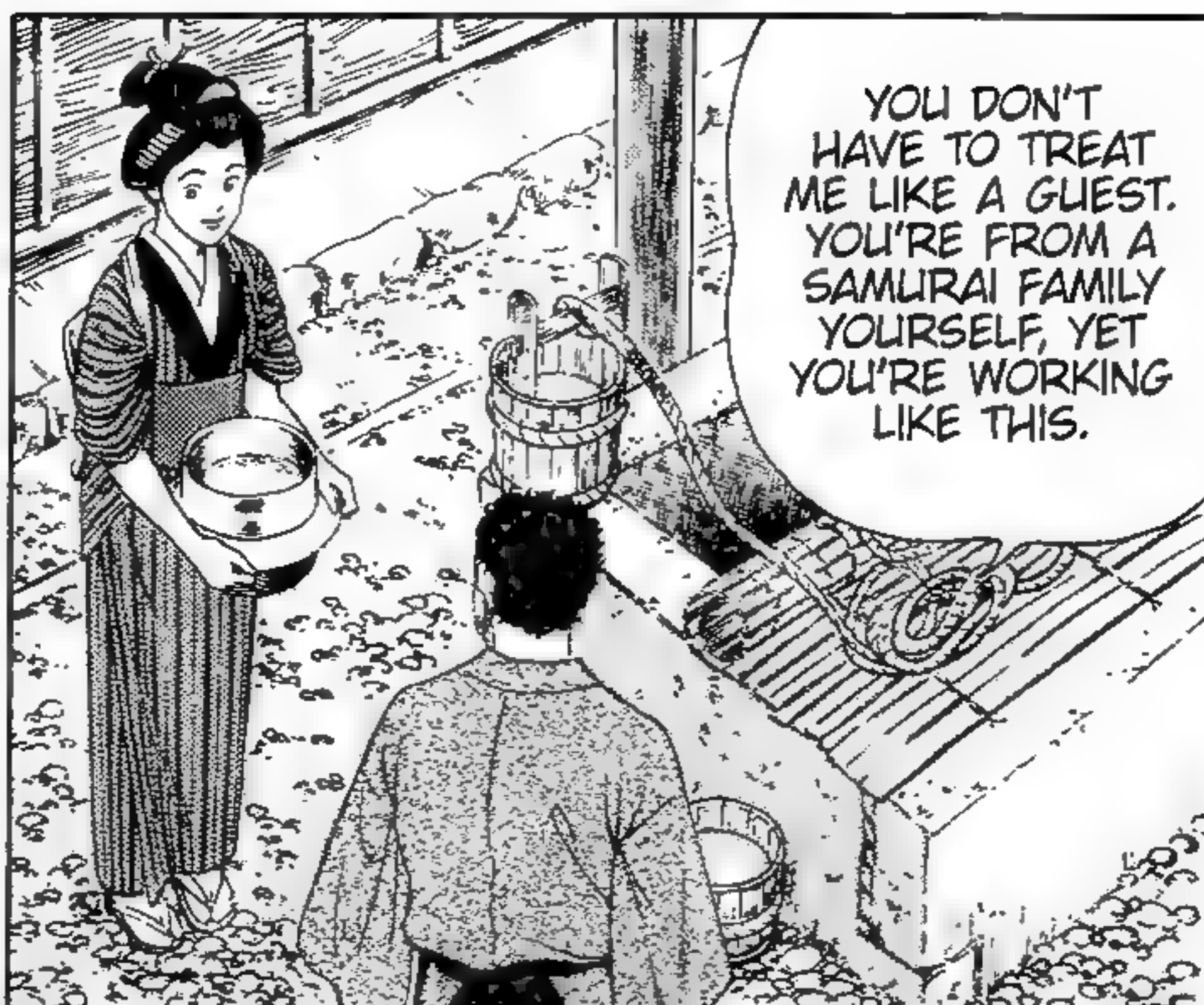
# DIVINE CHAPTER PART 3: RESOLUTION







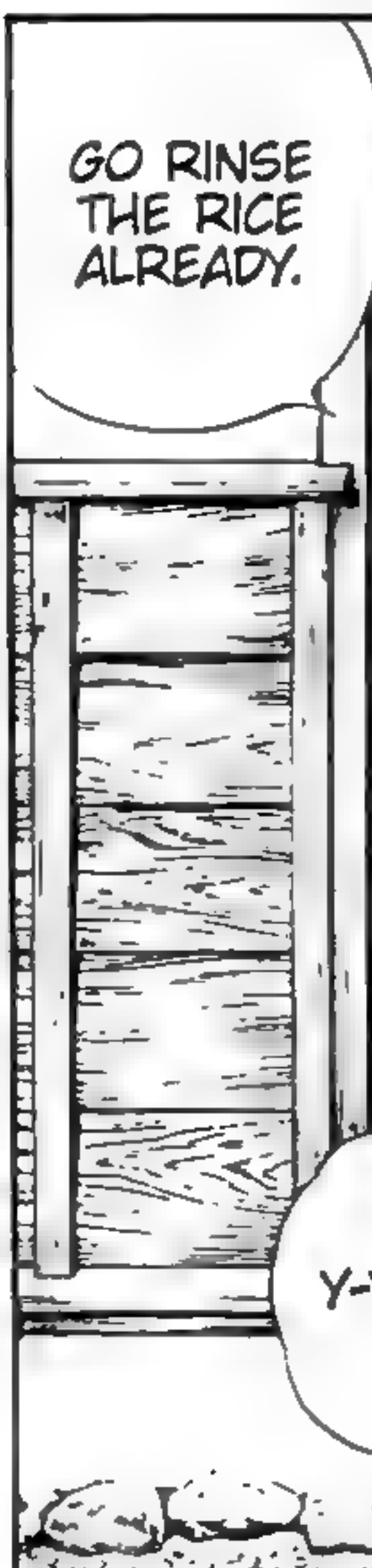




\*A HATAMOTO SAMURAI WAS A SAMURAI IN THE DIRECT SERVICE OF THE SHOGUNATE.



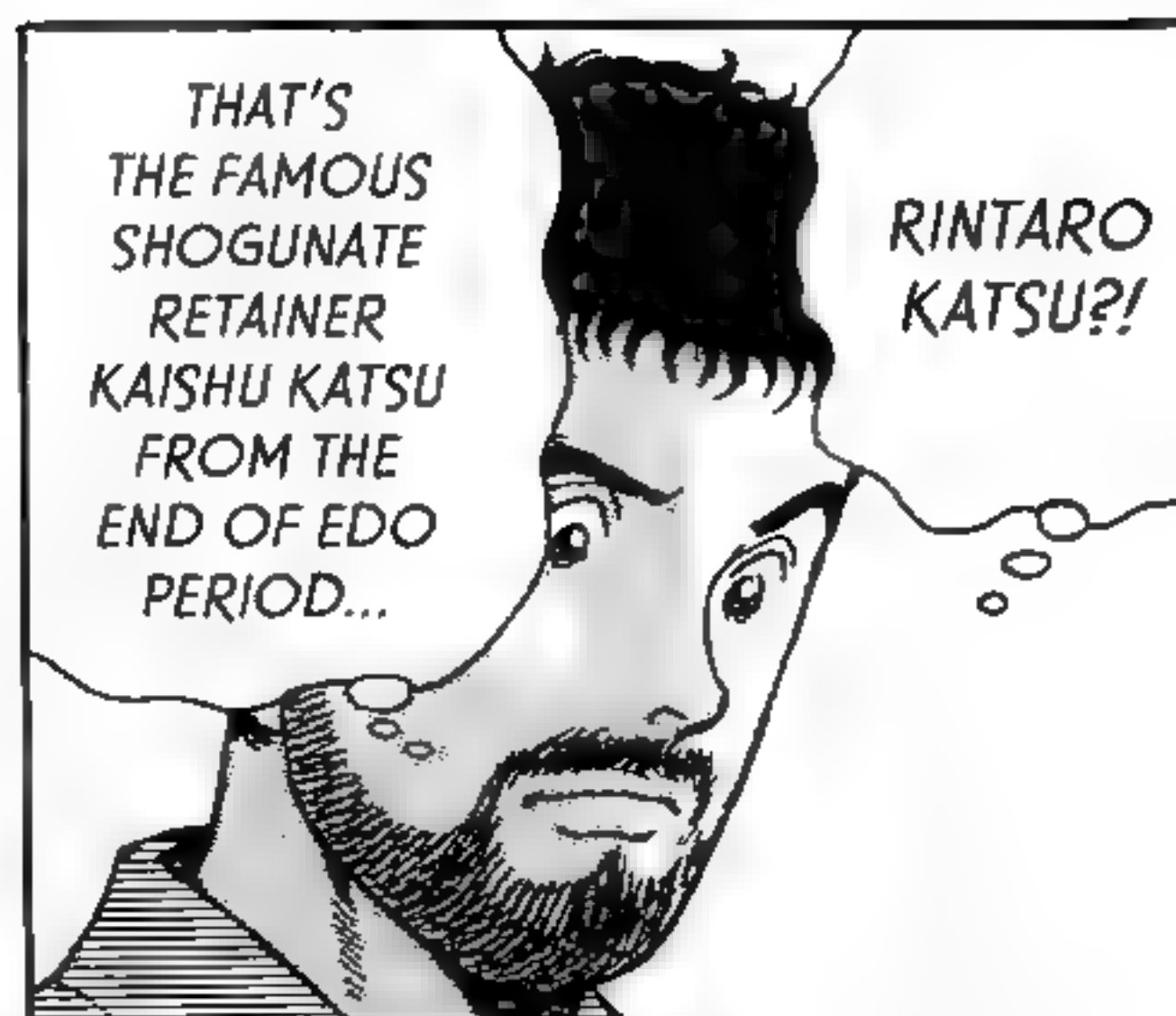
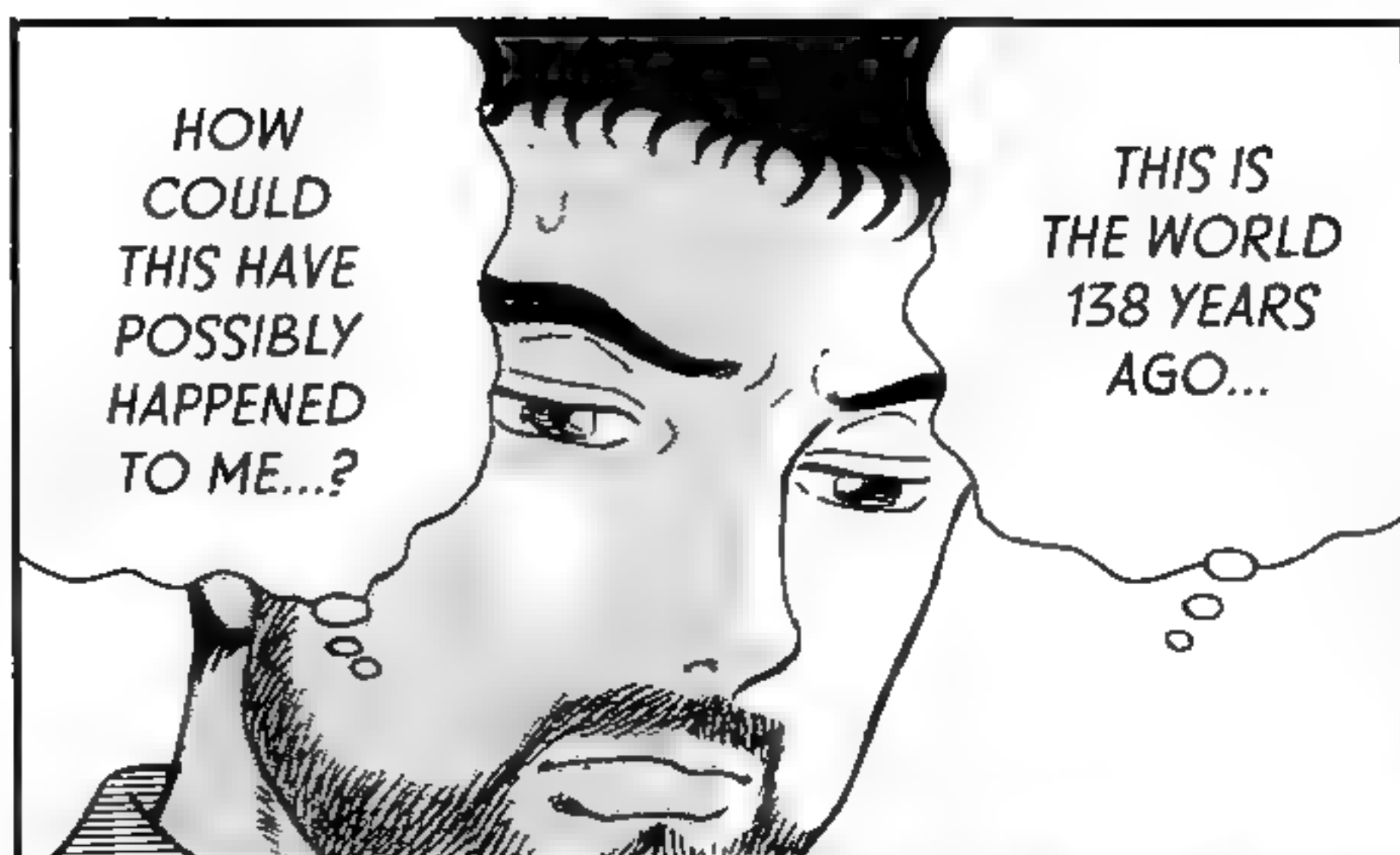




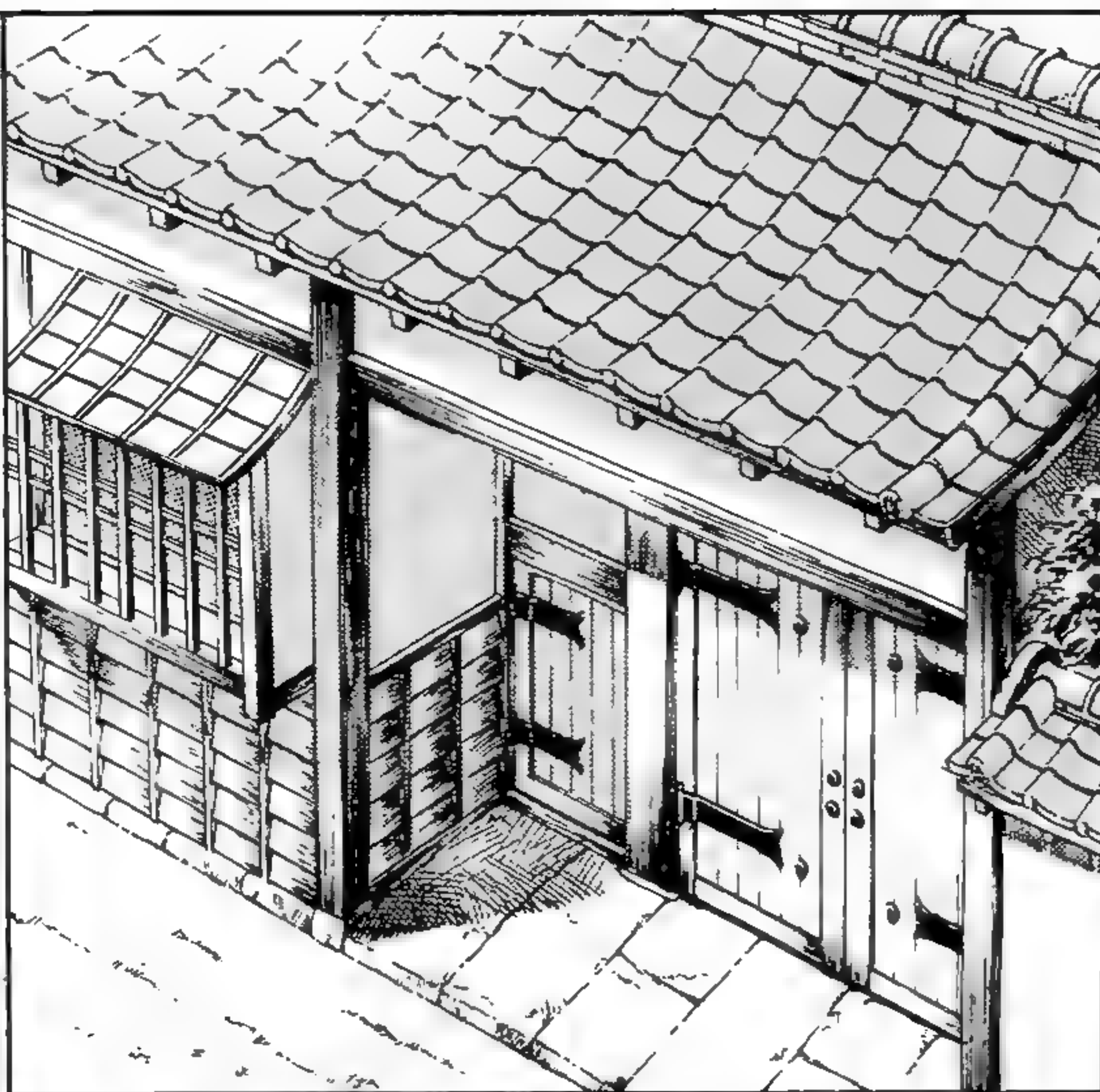












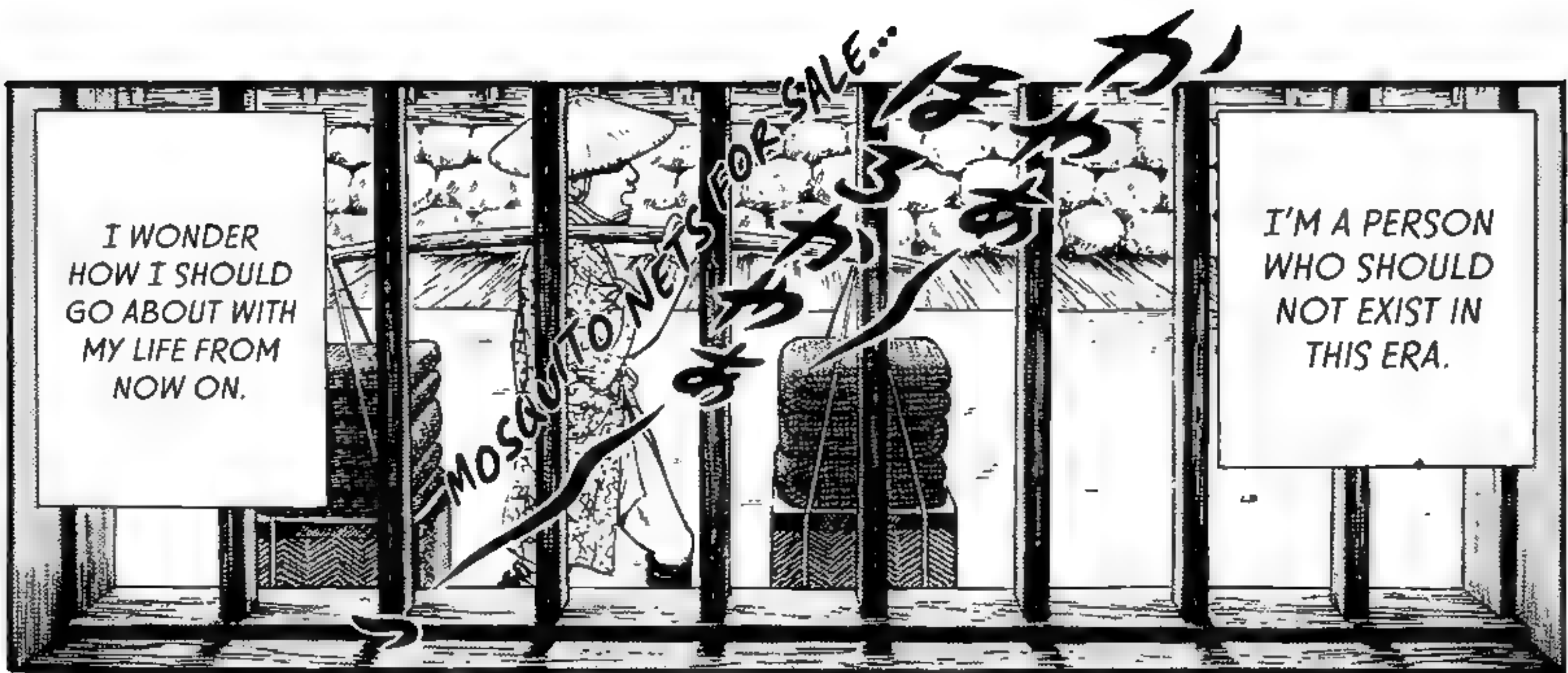
THE ONLY THING  
I'M SURE ABOUT  
IS THAT THIS IS  
EDO 138 YEARS  
IN THE PAST AND  
I'M CURRENTLY  
LIVING IN IT.

I SHOULD JUST  
STOP THINKING  
ABOUT THIS.  
NO MATTER HOW  
HARD I MAY TRY,  
I WON'T BE ABLE  
TO FIND OUT WHY  
THIS IS GOING ON.

I WONDER  
IF THIS MEANS  
I'VE CHANGED  
A PART OF  
HISTORY.

I CHANGED  
THE DESTINY  
OF A YOUNG  
MAN NAMED  
KYOTARO  
TACHIBANA.







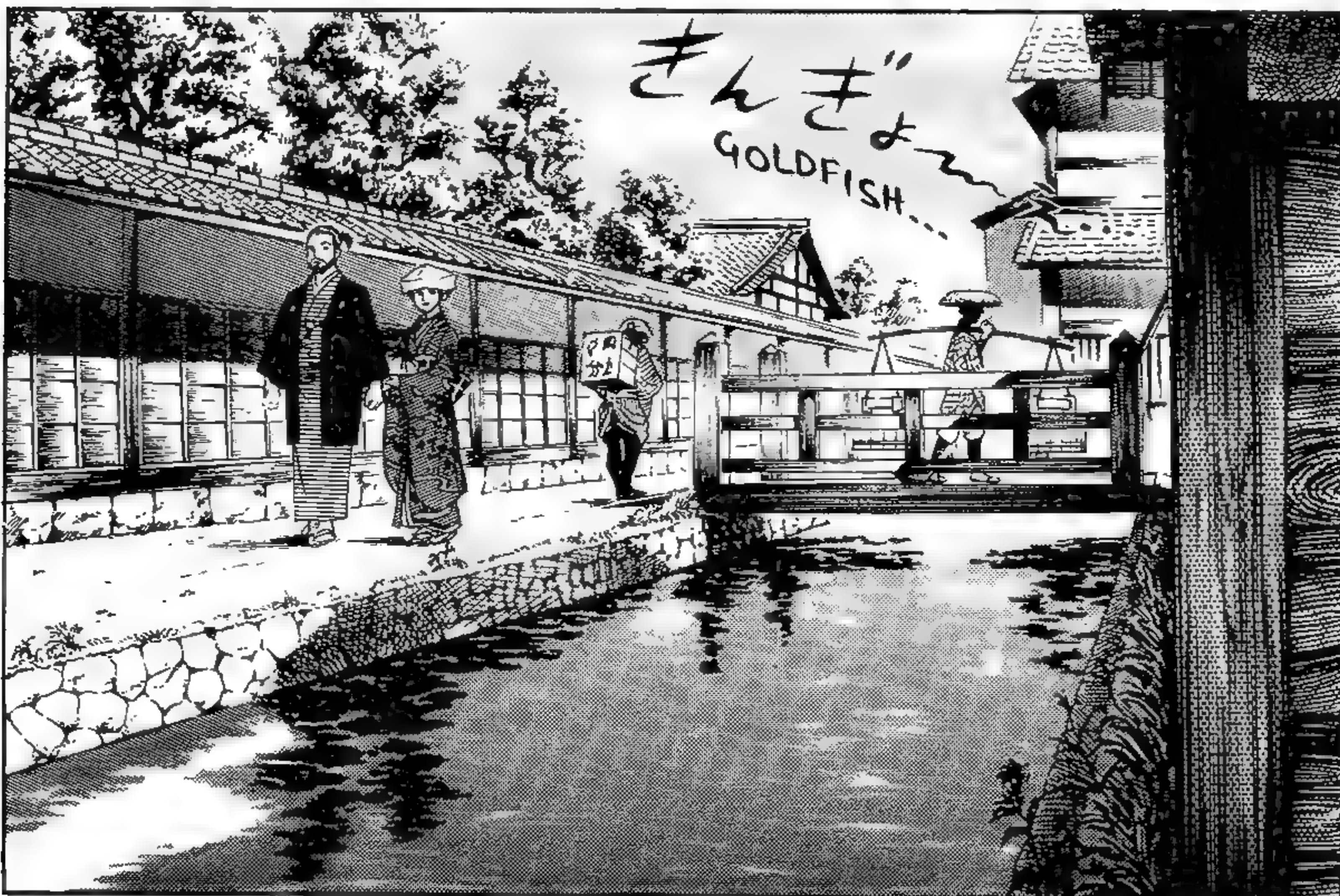






\*A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HIP OR THIGH LENGTH JACKET RESEMBLING A KIMONO.

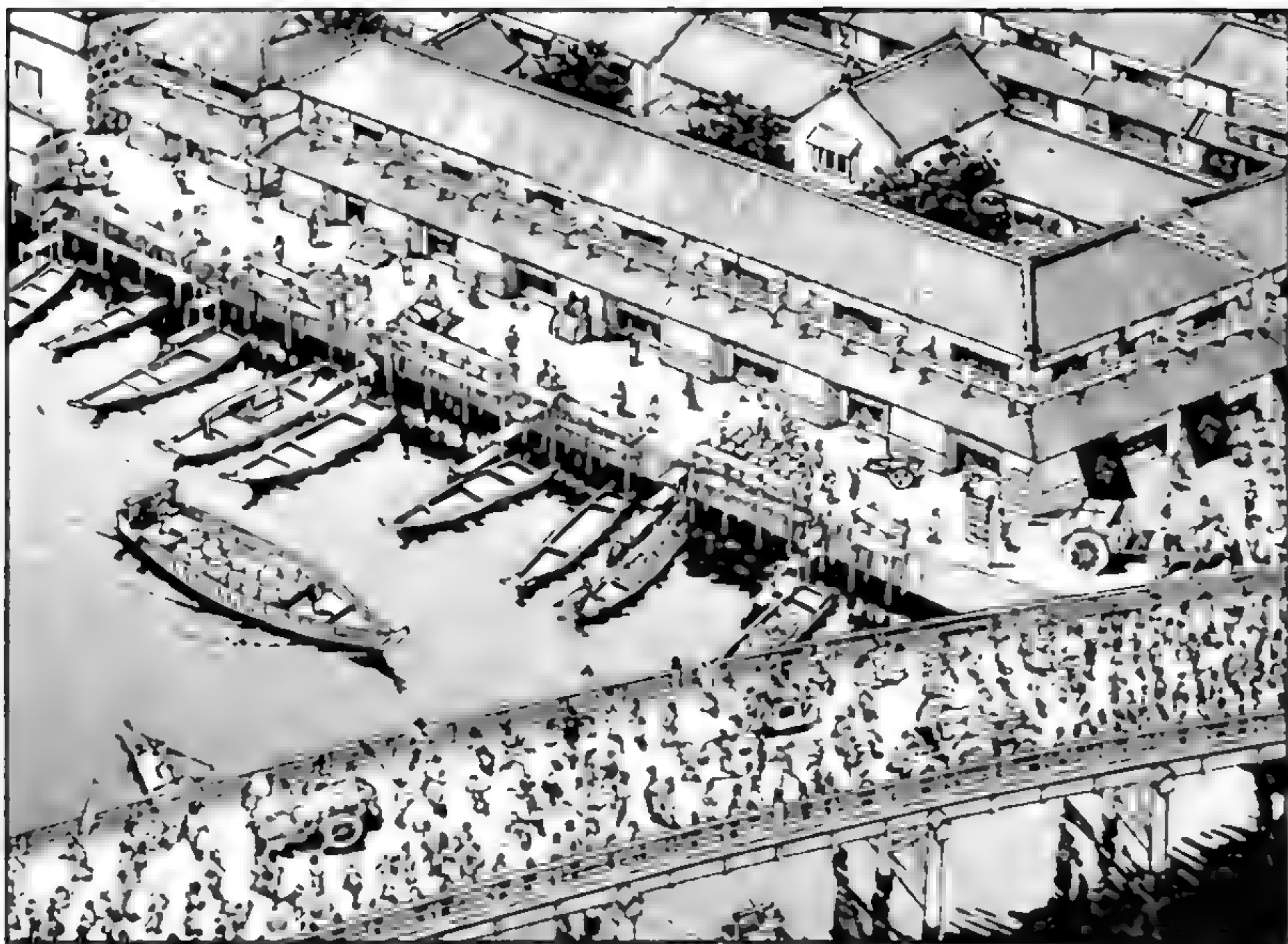




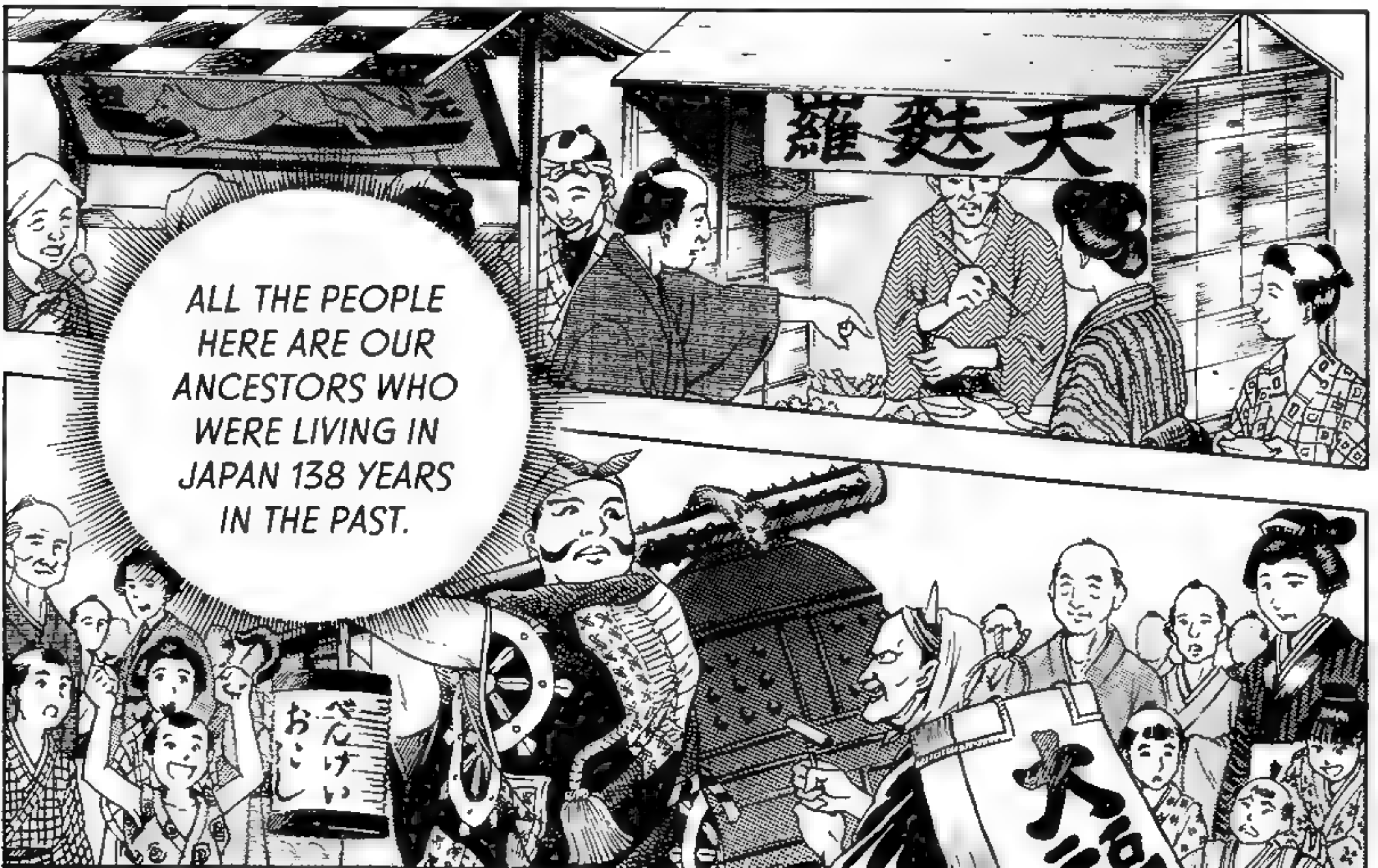








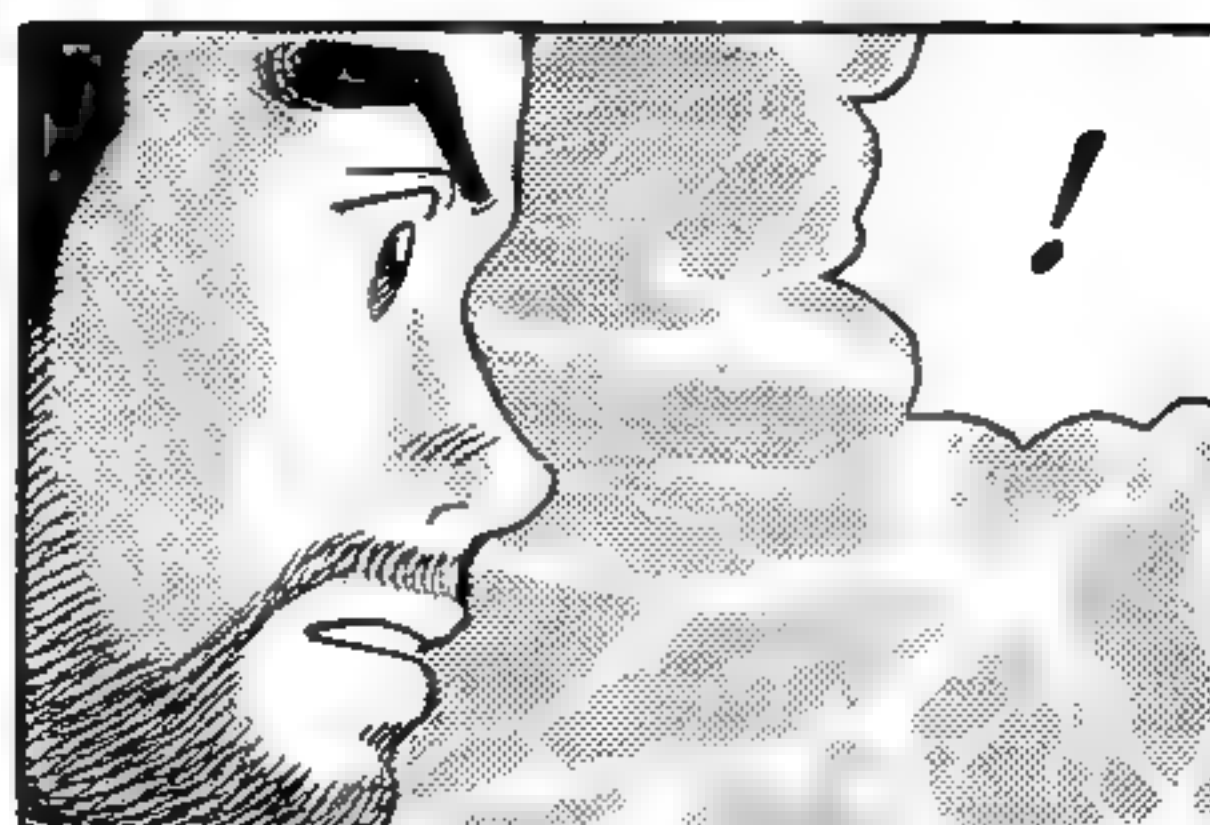
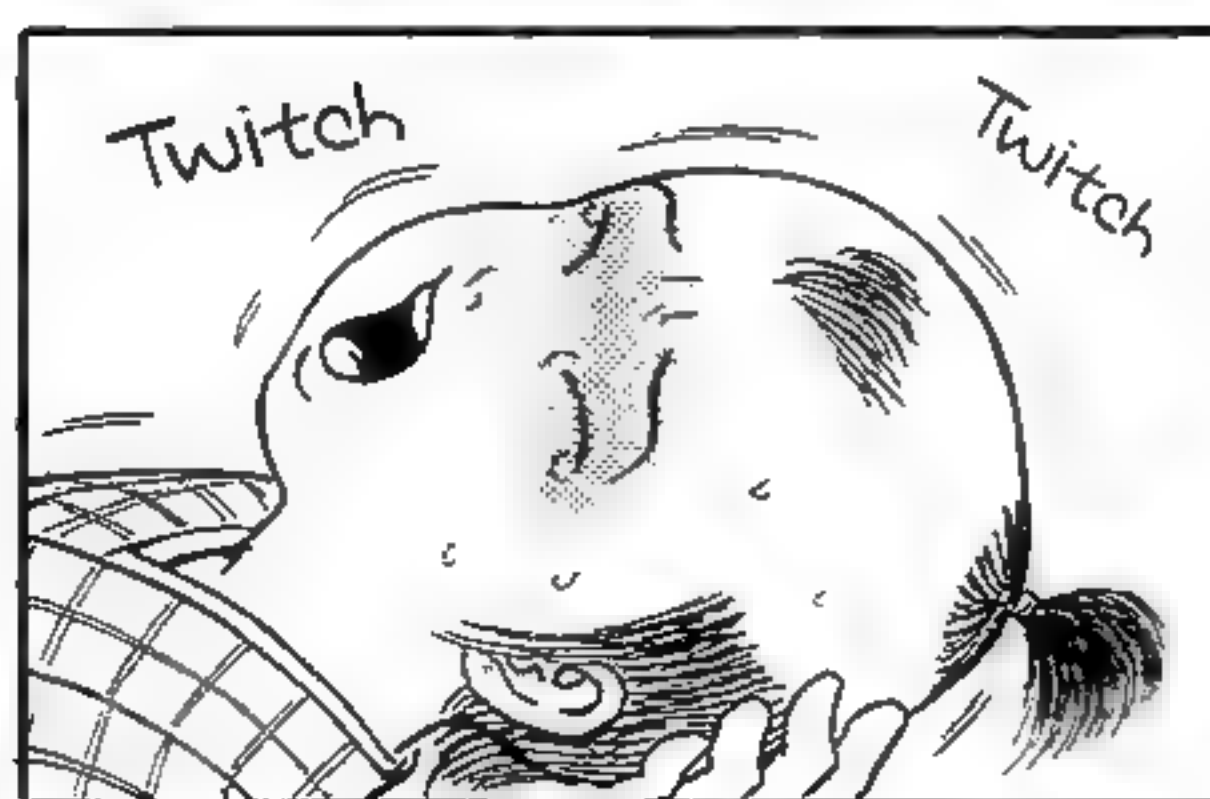




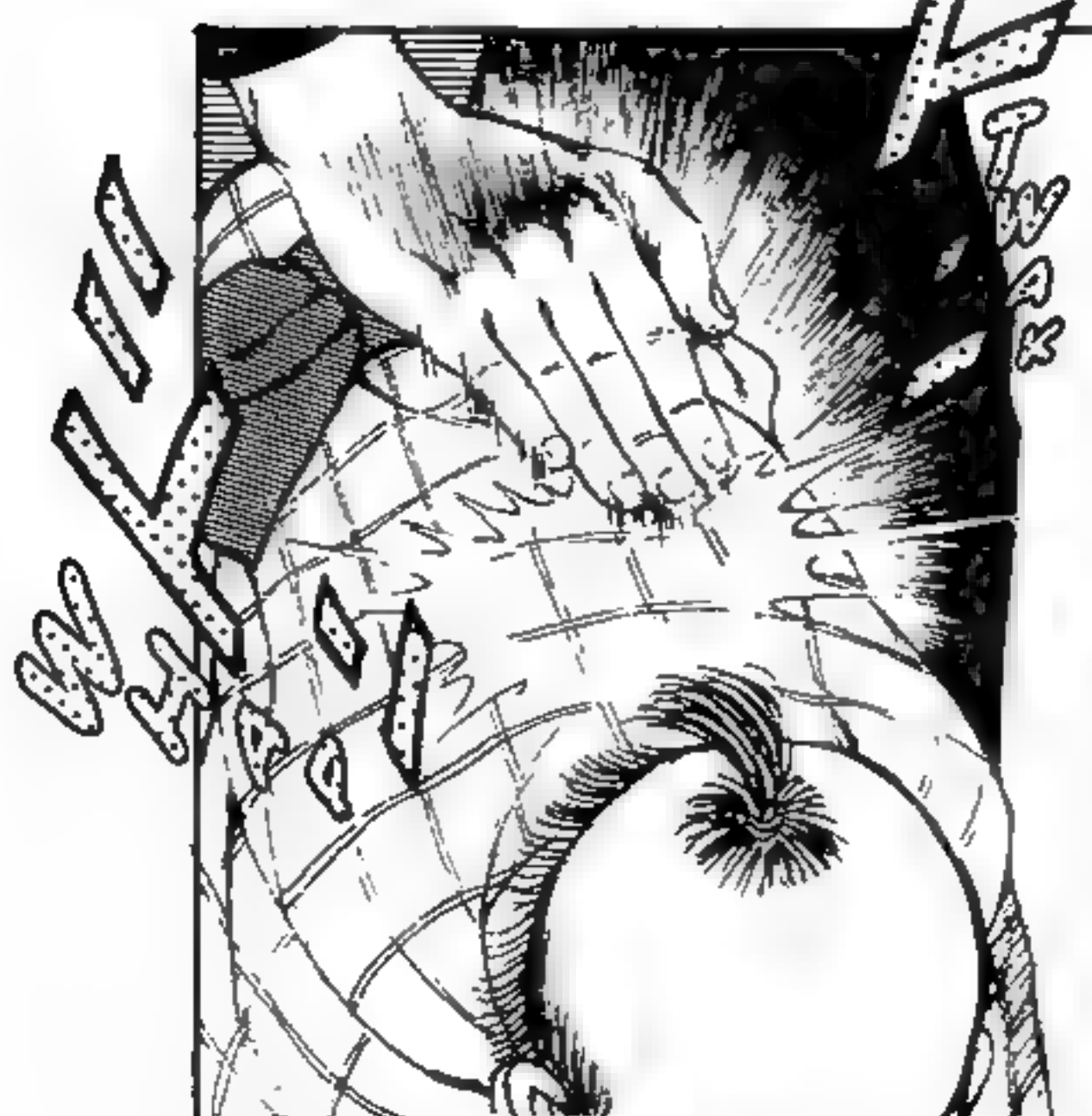
















MY BLADE IS  
MY SOUL AS A  
SAMURAI! WHAT  
DO YOU WANT  
IT FOR?!



YOU THERE!  
PLEASE GIVE  
ME YOUR  
SWORD!



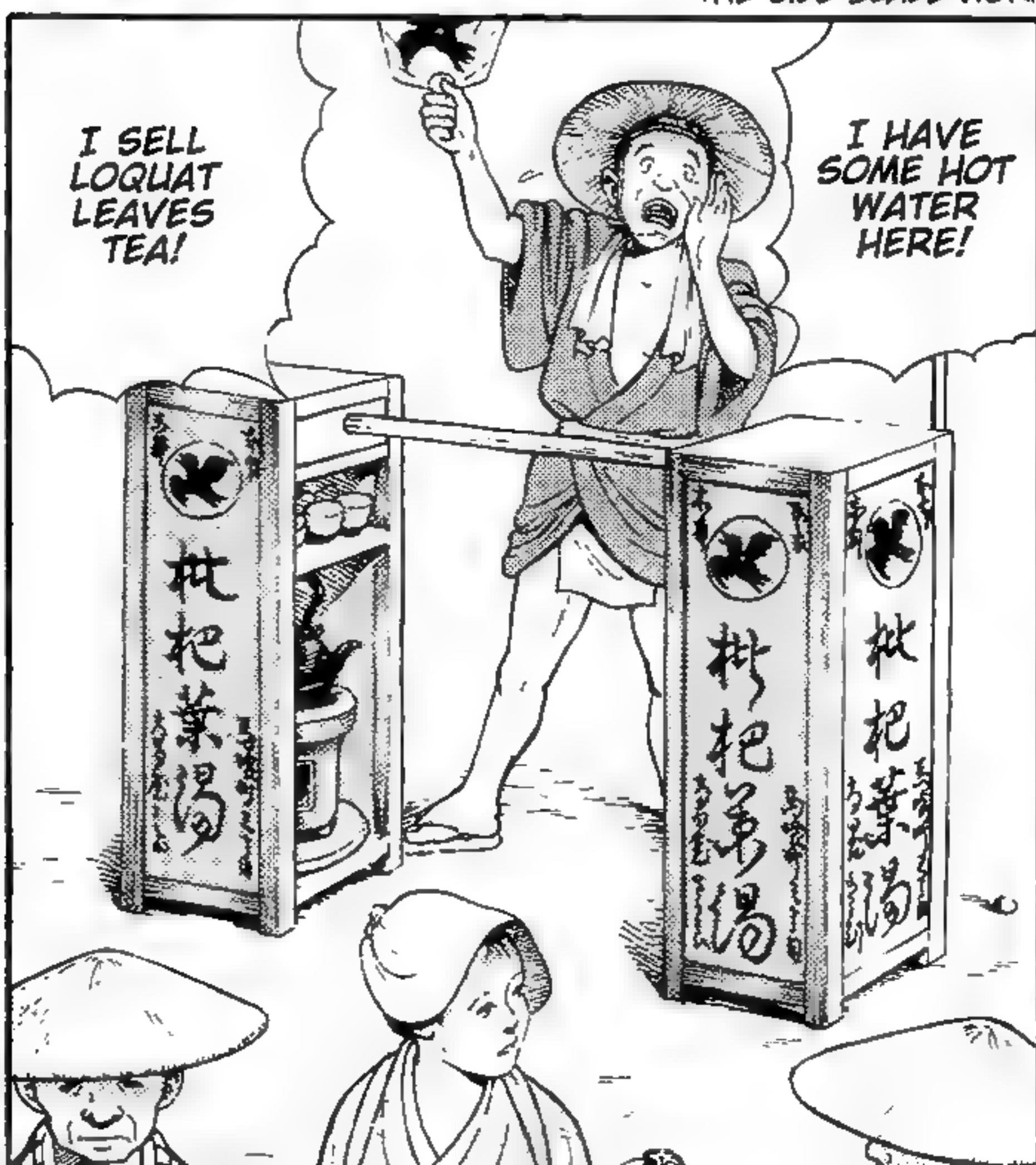
IF IT'S  
FOR  
SAVING  
THE  
CHILD!



YOUR  
WAKIZASHI\*  
WILL BE FINE!  
PLEASE GIVE  
IT TO ME!

IF WE  
DON'T MAKE  
SURE THIS  
CHILD CAN  
BREATHE  
RIGHT AWAY,  
HE'S GOING  
TO DIE!

\*THE SIDE BLADE WORN TOGETHER WITH THE KATANA BY SAMURAI.



I SELL  
LOQUAT  
LEAVES  
TEA!

I HAVE  
SOME HOT  
WATER  
HERE!



DOES  
ANYONE  
HAVE ANY  
BOILING  
WATER?!

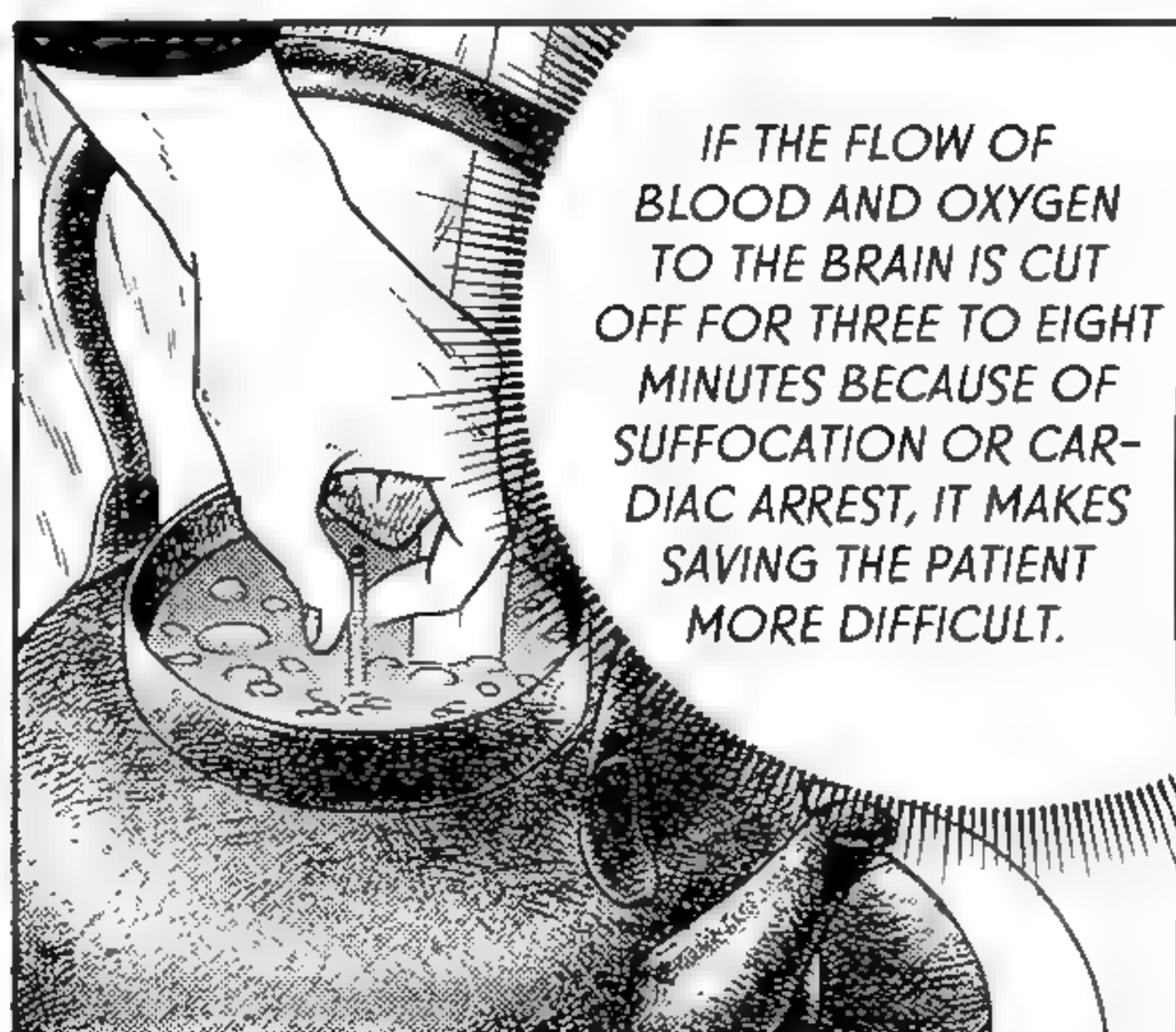




NEXT, I'LL  
USE THIS  
BALLPOINT  
PEN I HAVE  
ON ME...



I HAVE TO DO  
THIS AS QUICKLY  
AS POSSIBLE SO  
I CAN FINISH IT ALL  
WITHIN THREE  
MINUTES!



IF THE FLOW OF  
BLOOD AND OXYGEN  
TO THE BRAIN IS CUT  
OFF FOR THREE TO EIGHT  
MINUTES BECAUSE OF  
SUFFOCATION OR CAR-  
DIAC ARREST, IT MAKES  
SAVING THE PATIENT  
MORE DIFFICULT.

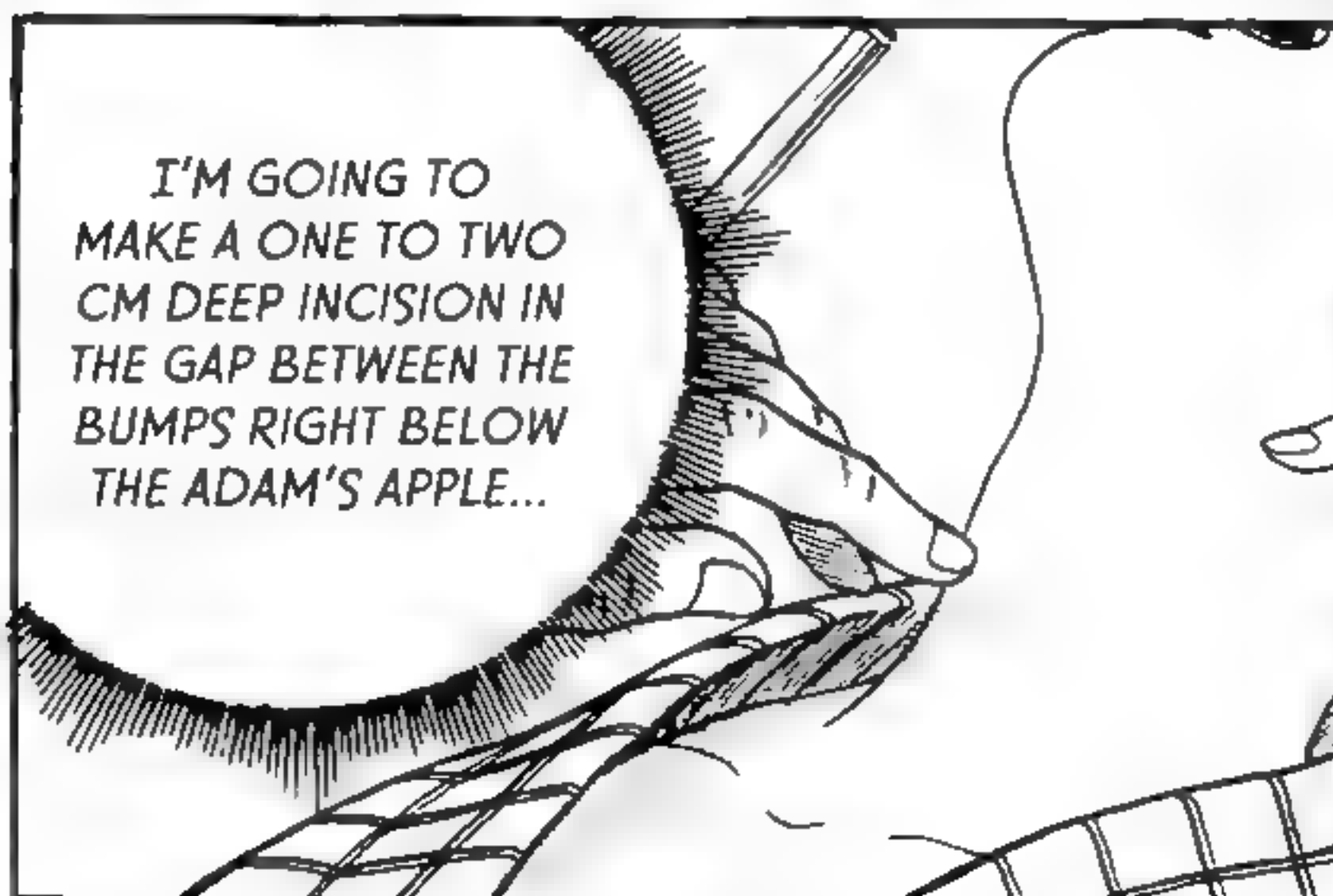


SAKI-SAN,  
PLEASE GIVE  
ME A HAND!

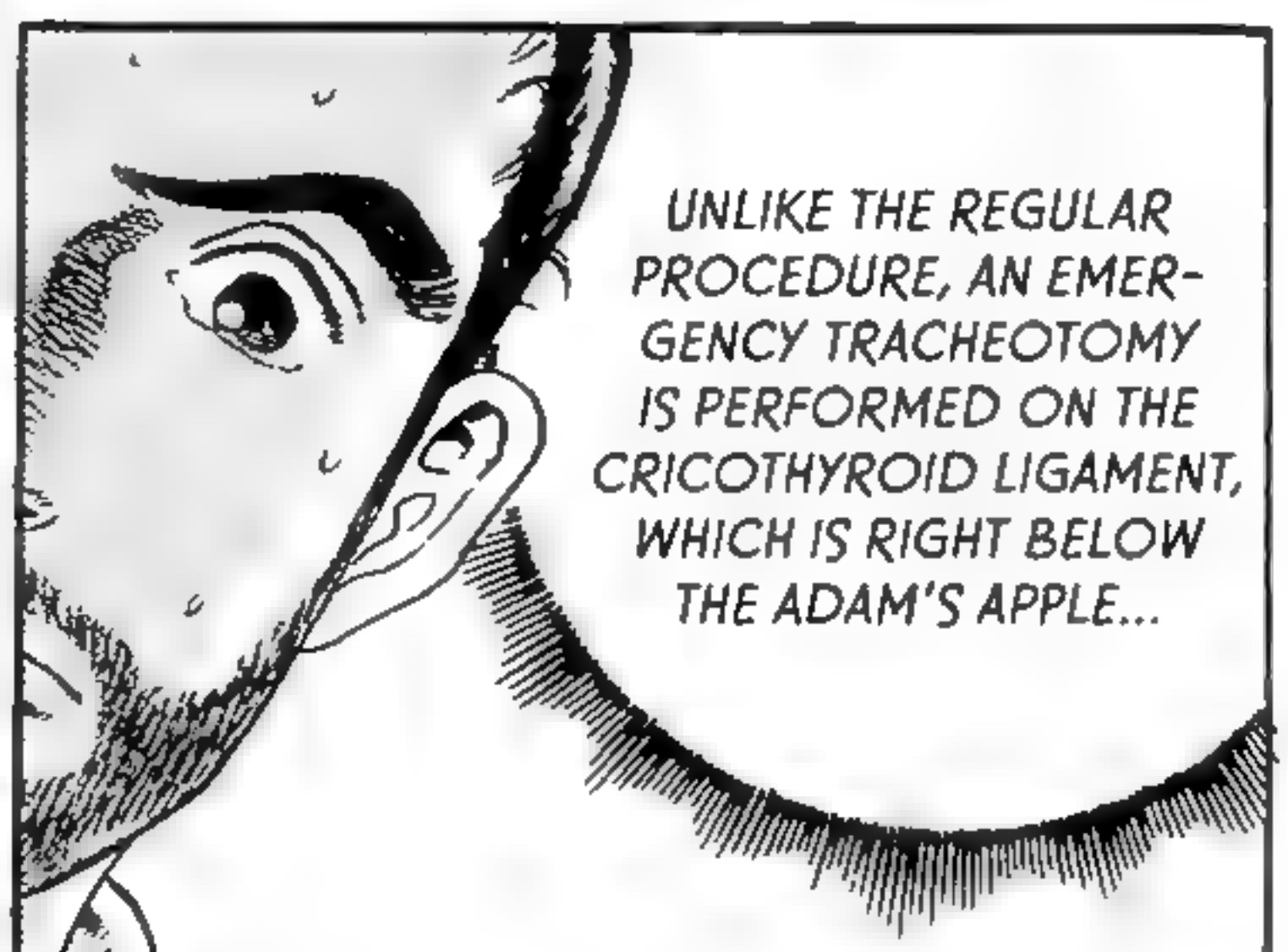


Y...  
YES!



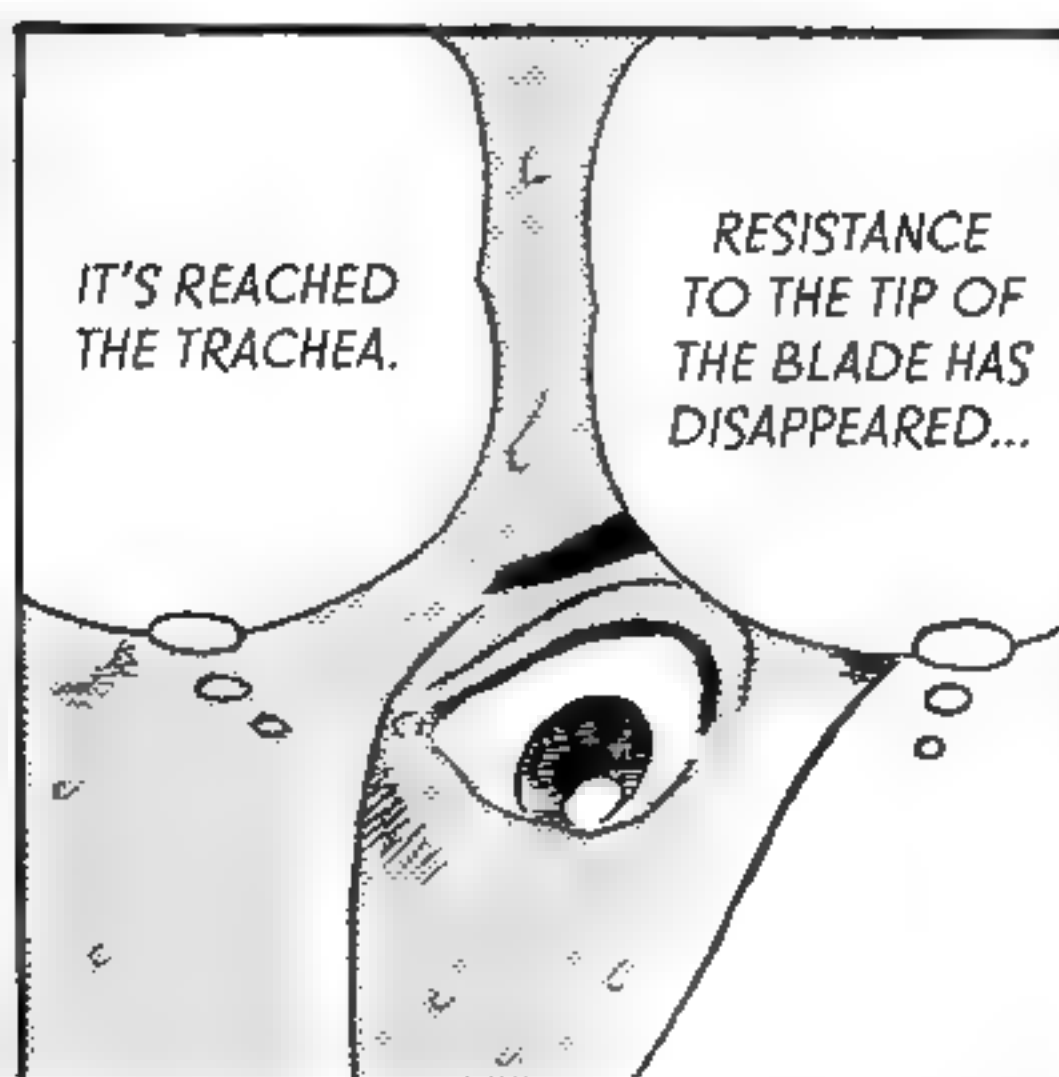
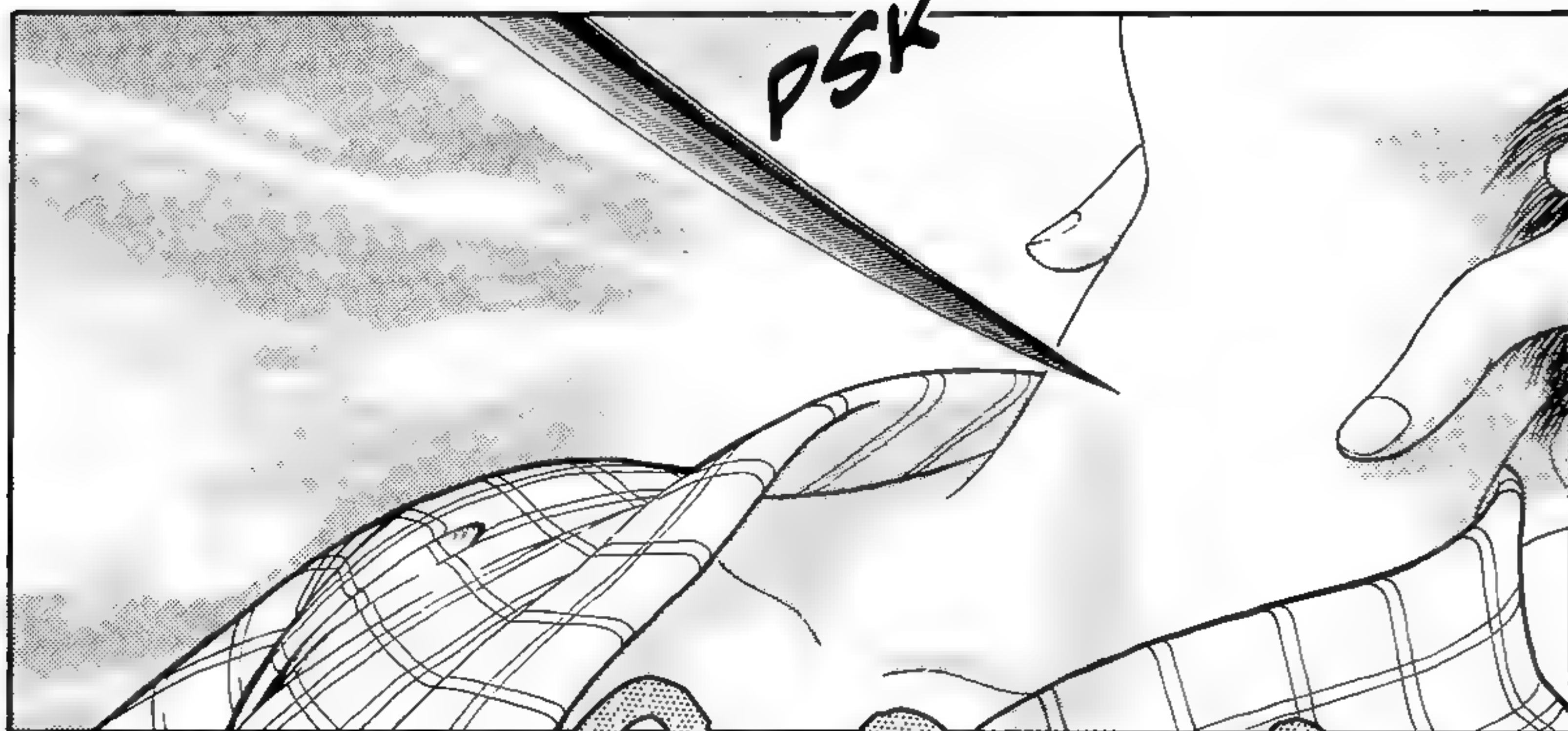


I'M GOING TO  
MAKE A ONE TO TWO  
CM DEEP INCISION IN  
THE GAP BETWEEN THE  
BUMPS RIGHT BELOW  
THE ADAM'S APPLE...

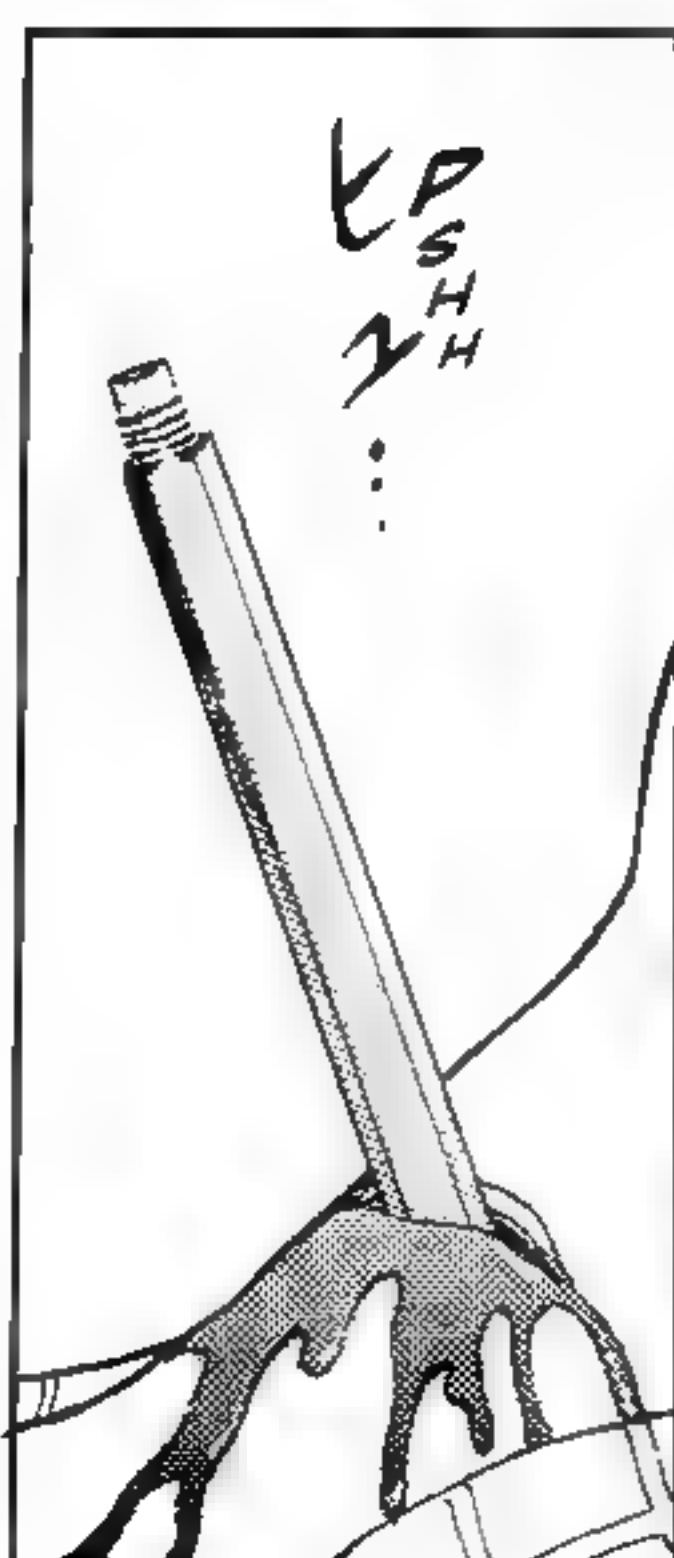
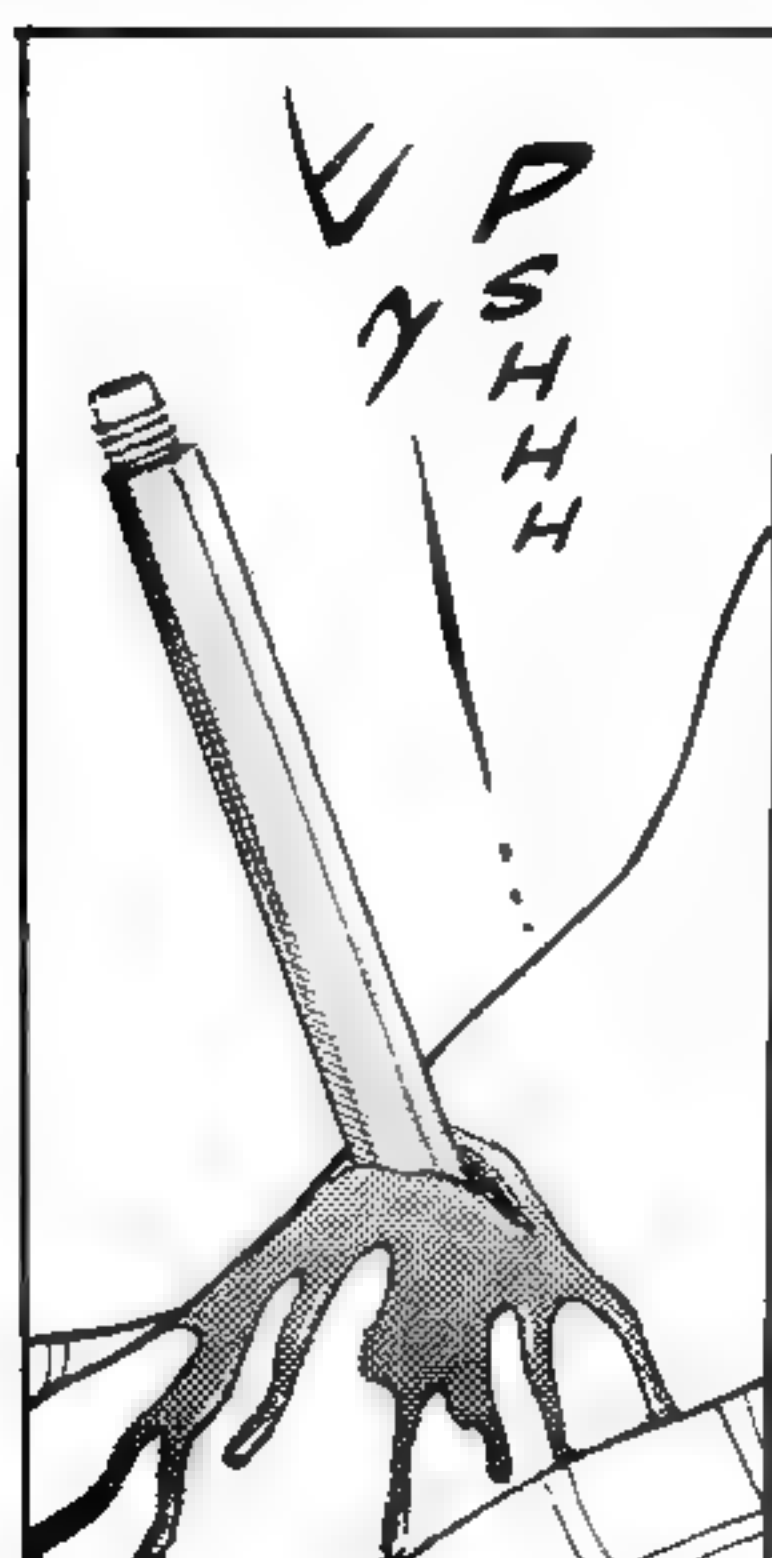


UNLIKE THE REGULAR  
PROCEDURE, AN EMER-  
GENCY TRACHEOTOMY  
IS PERFORMED ON THE  
CRICOTHYROID LIGAMENT,  
WHICH IS RIGHT BELOW  
THE ADAM'S APPLE...

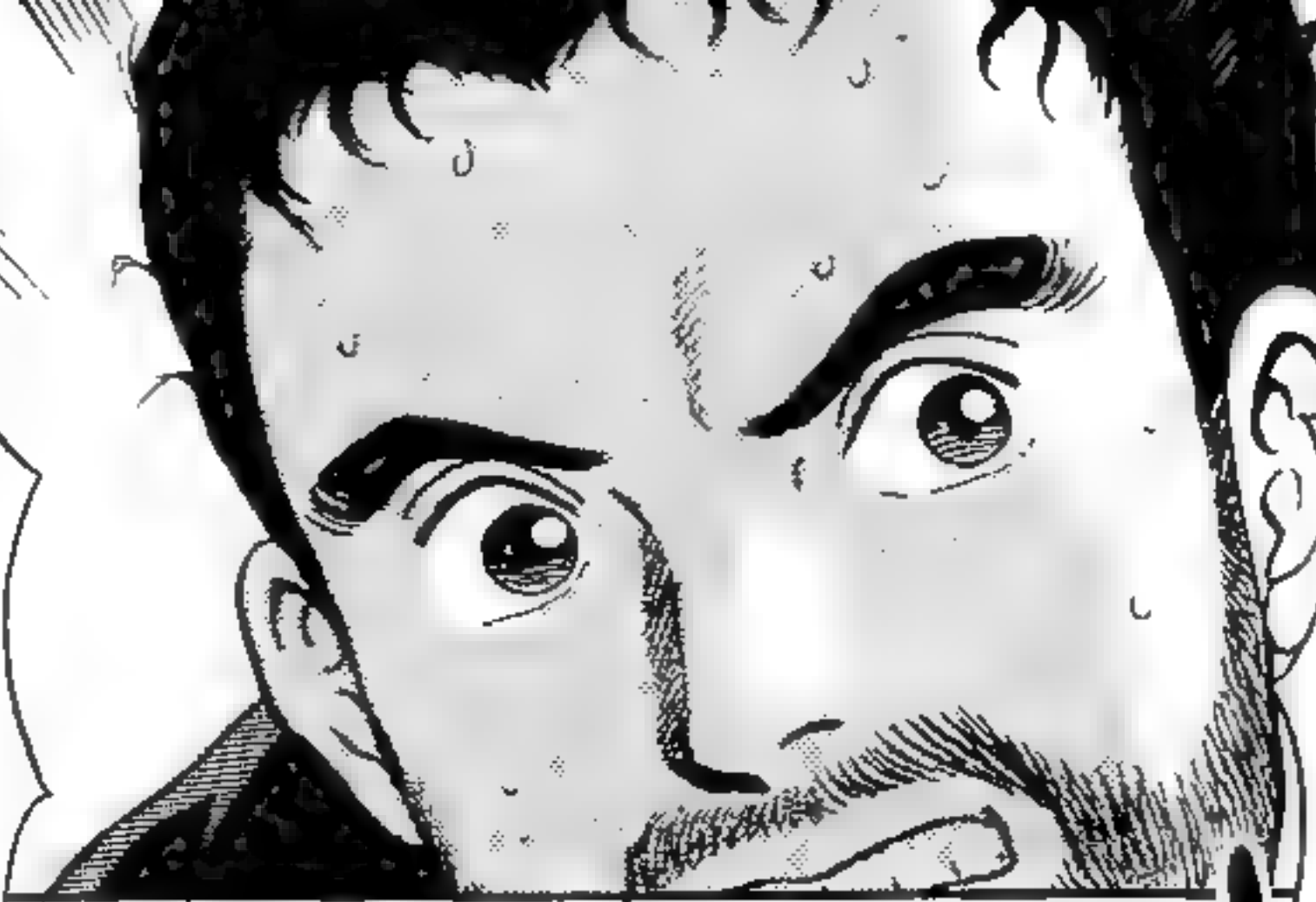






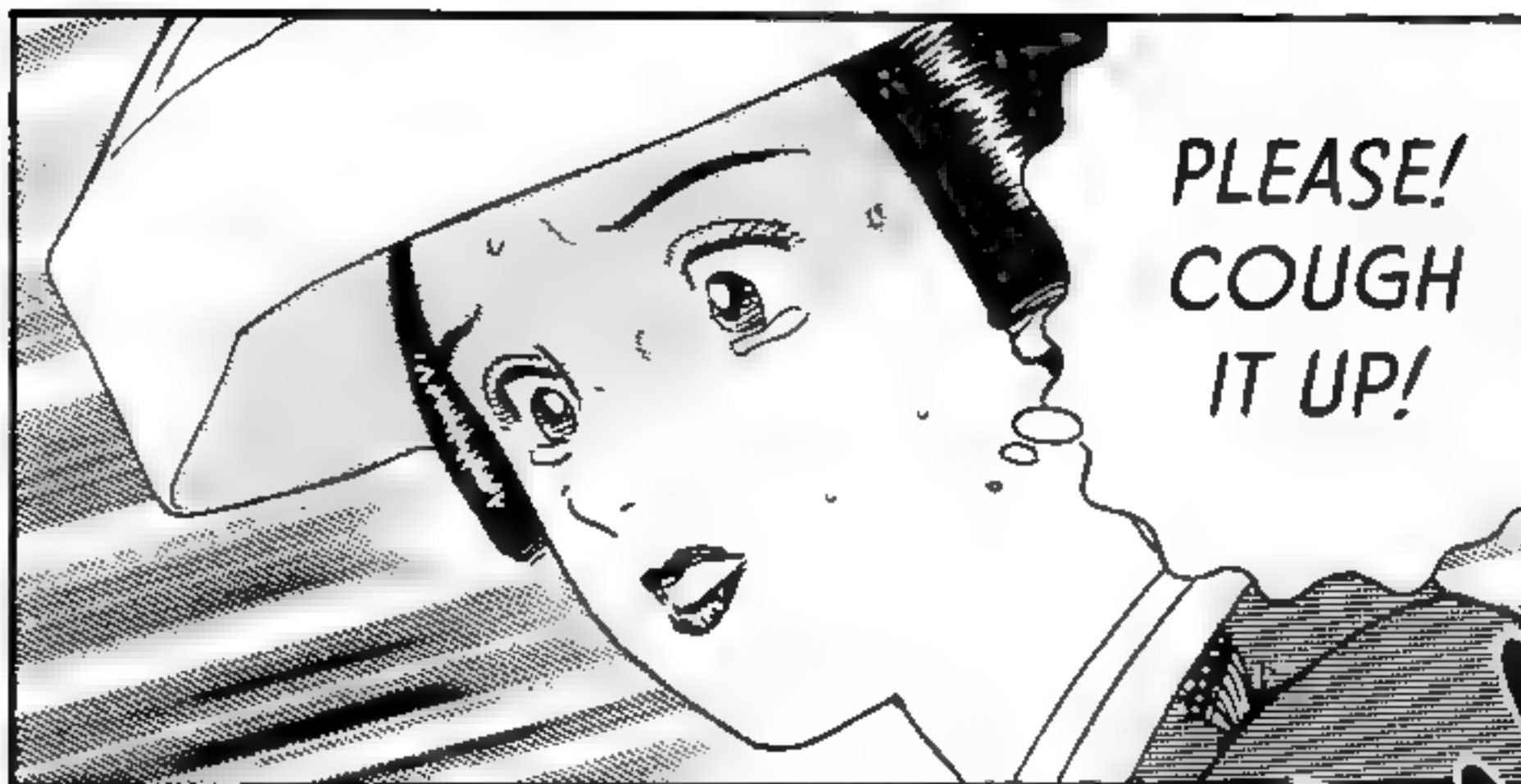
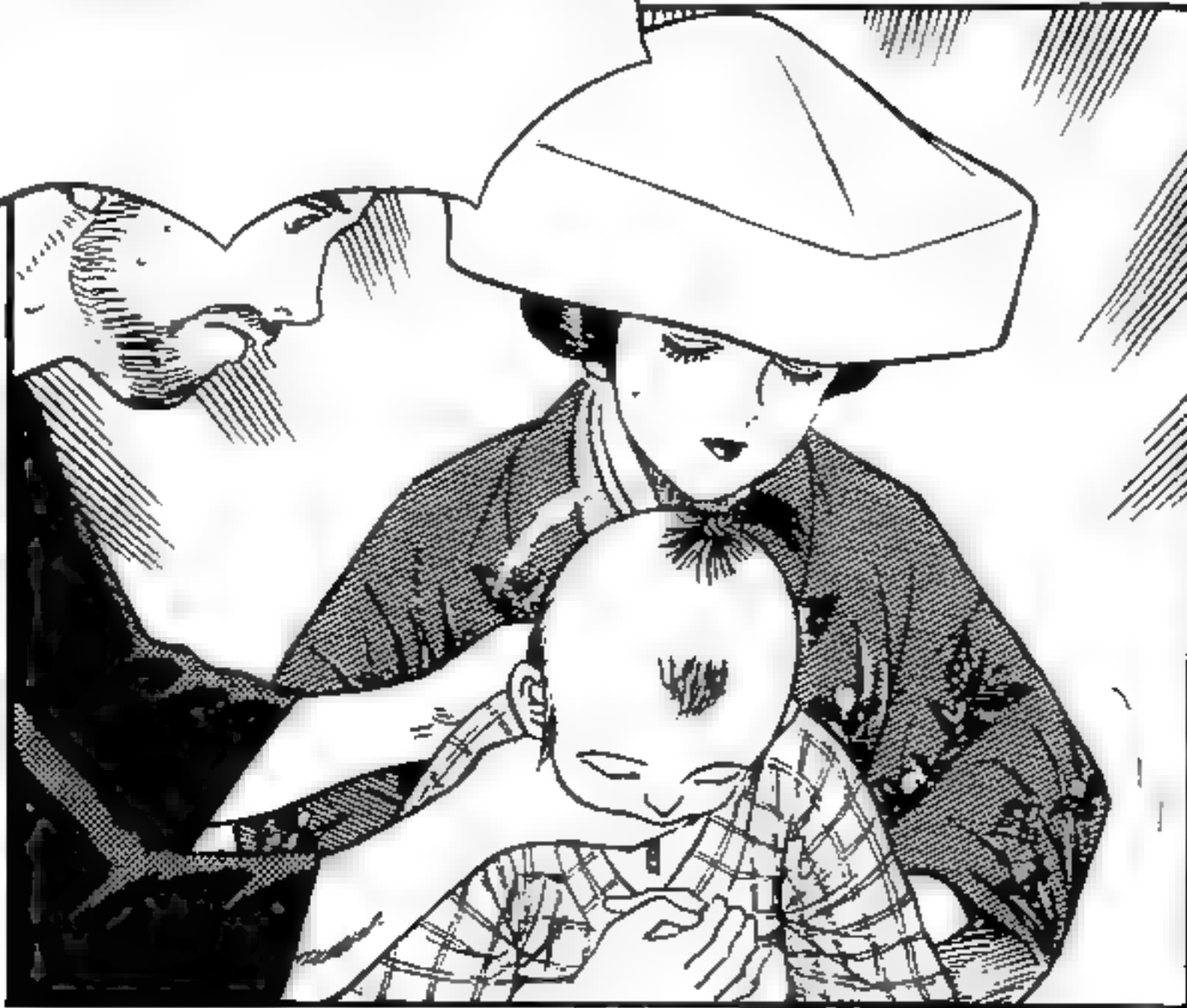




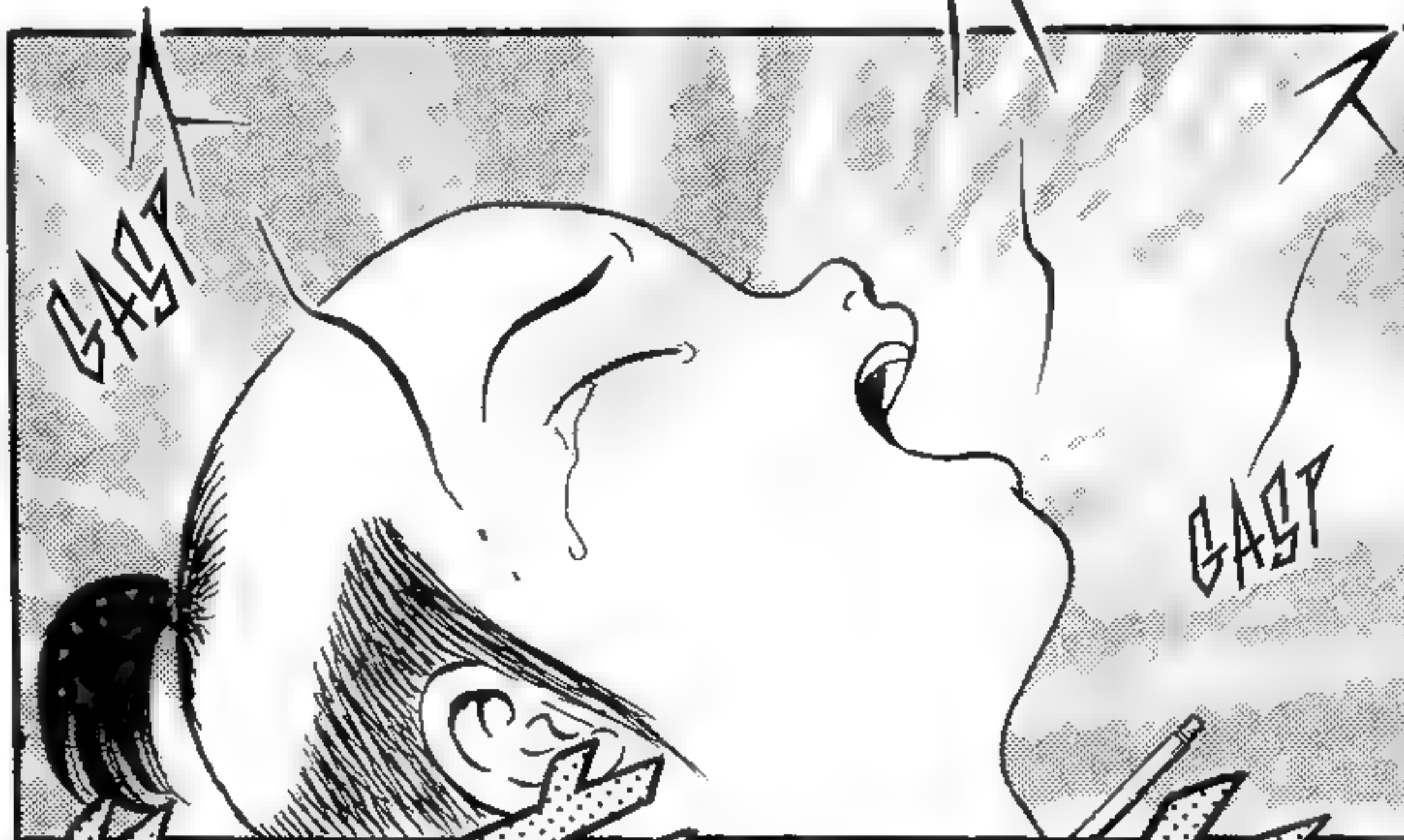
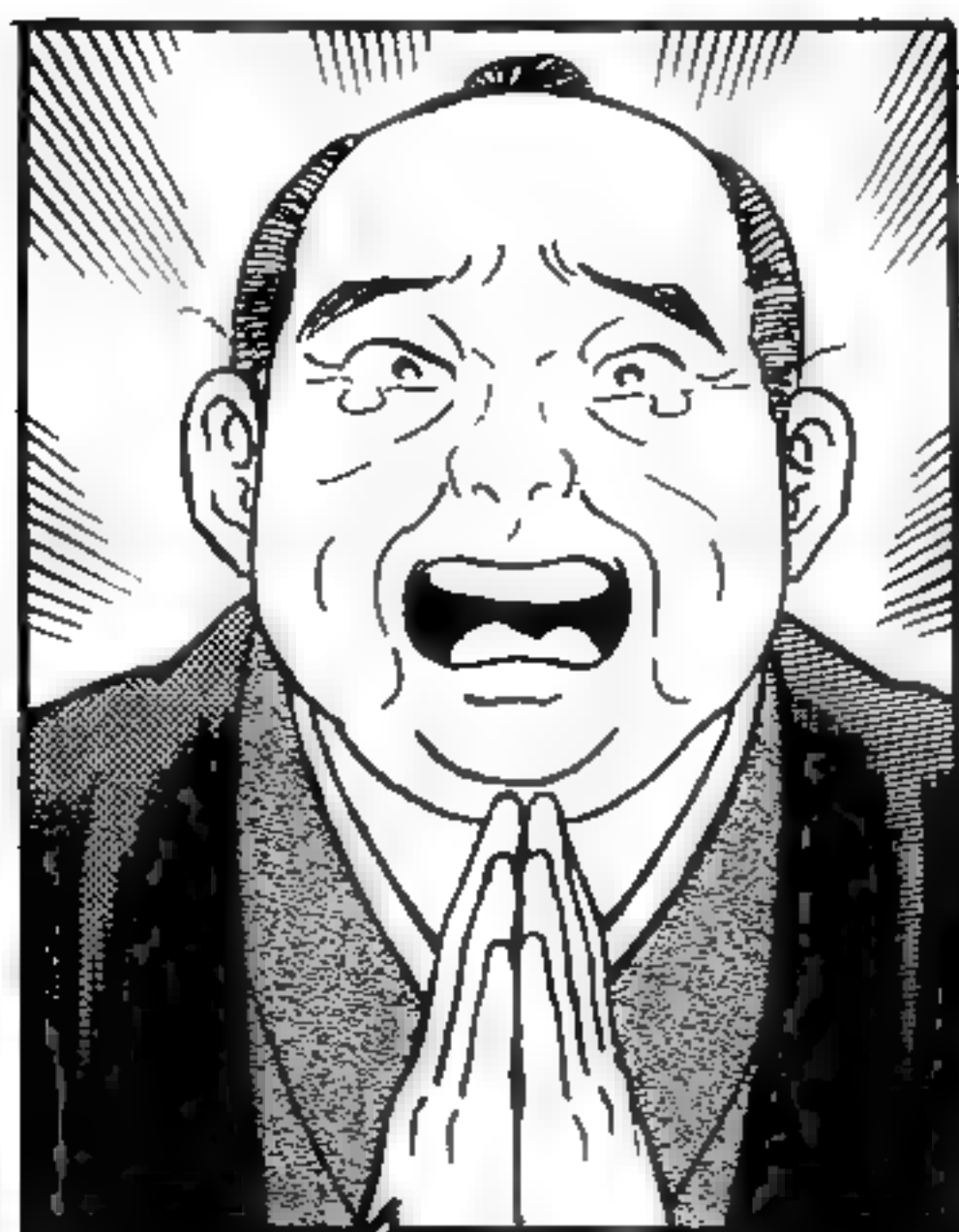


THEN, PUT YOUR  
HANDS TOGETHER  
UNDER HIS RIB CAGE  
AND PULL UPWARDS  
WHILE YOU COUNT TO  
THREE... DO THIS FIVE  
TIMES AS WELL!

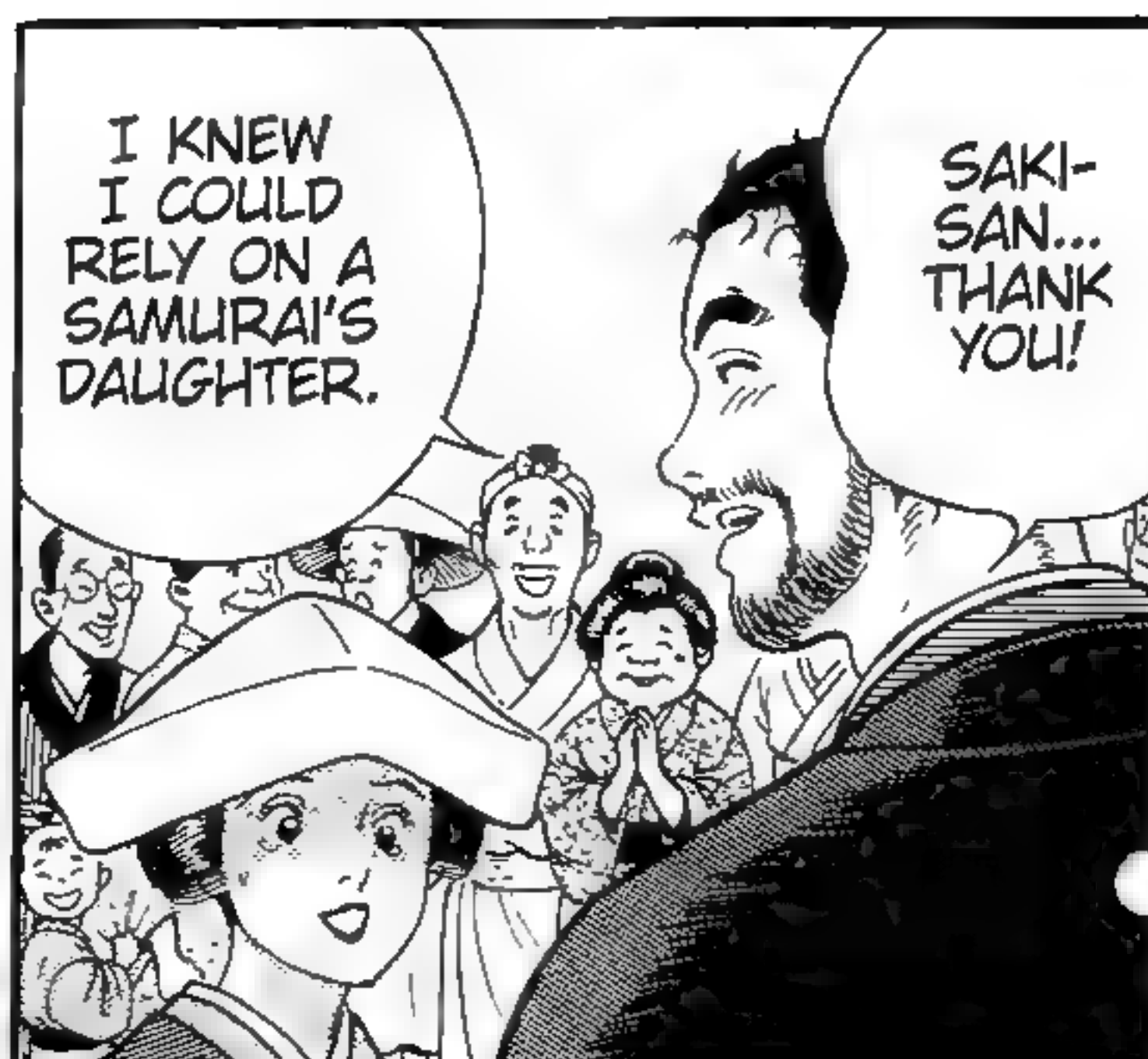
PUT HIM IN  
A SLOUCH AND  
SLAP HIS BACK  
HARD BETWEEN  
HIS SHOULDER  
BLADES WITH THE  
PALM OF YOUR  
HAND ABOUT  
FIVE TIMES!



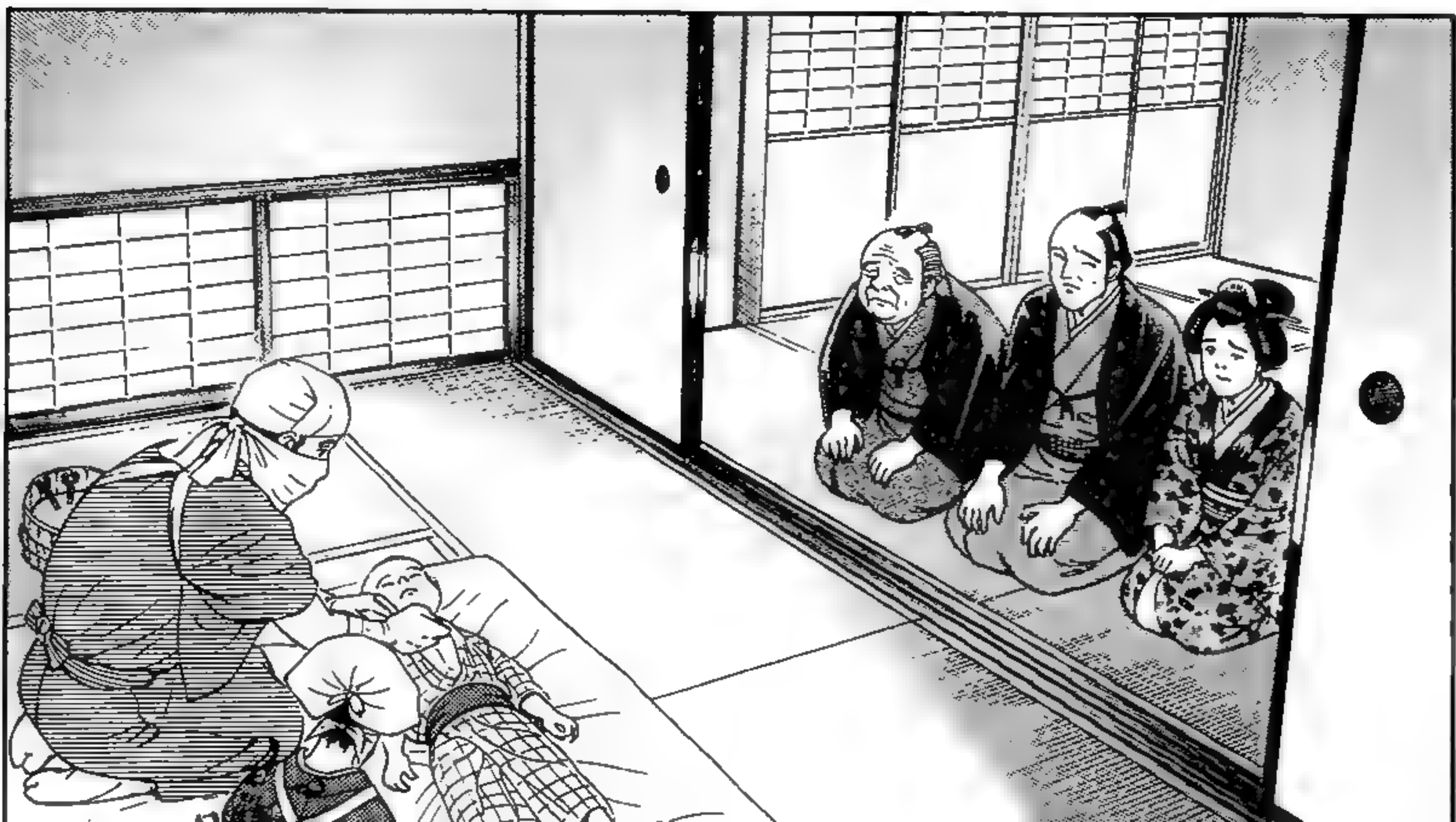




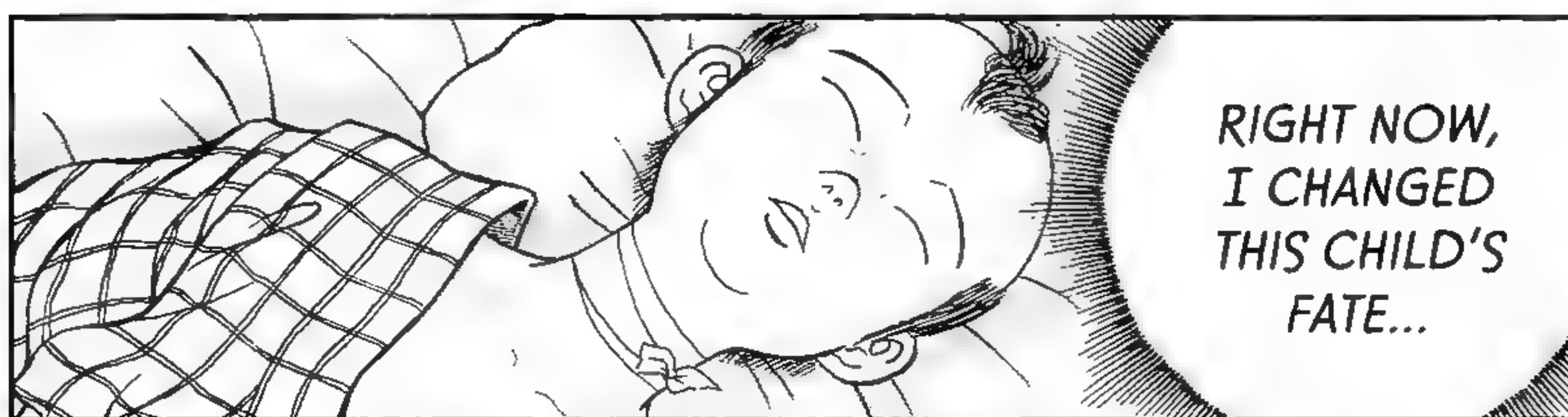
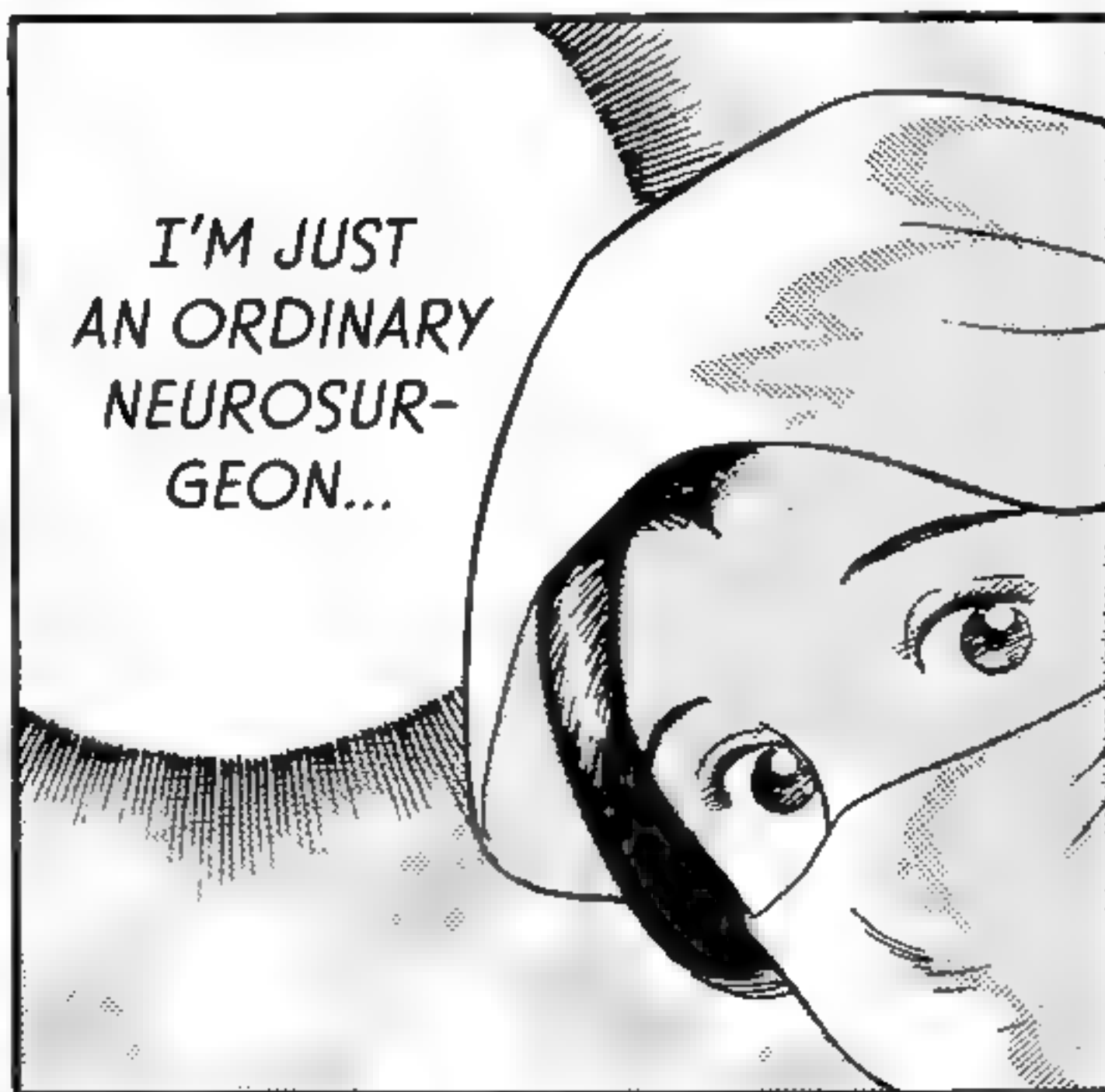
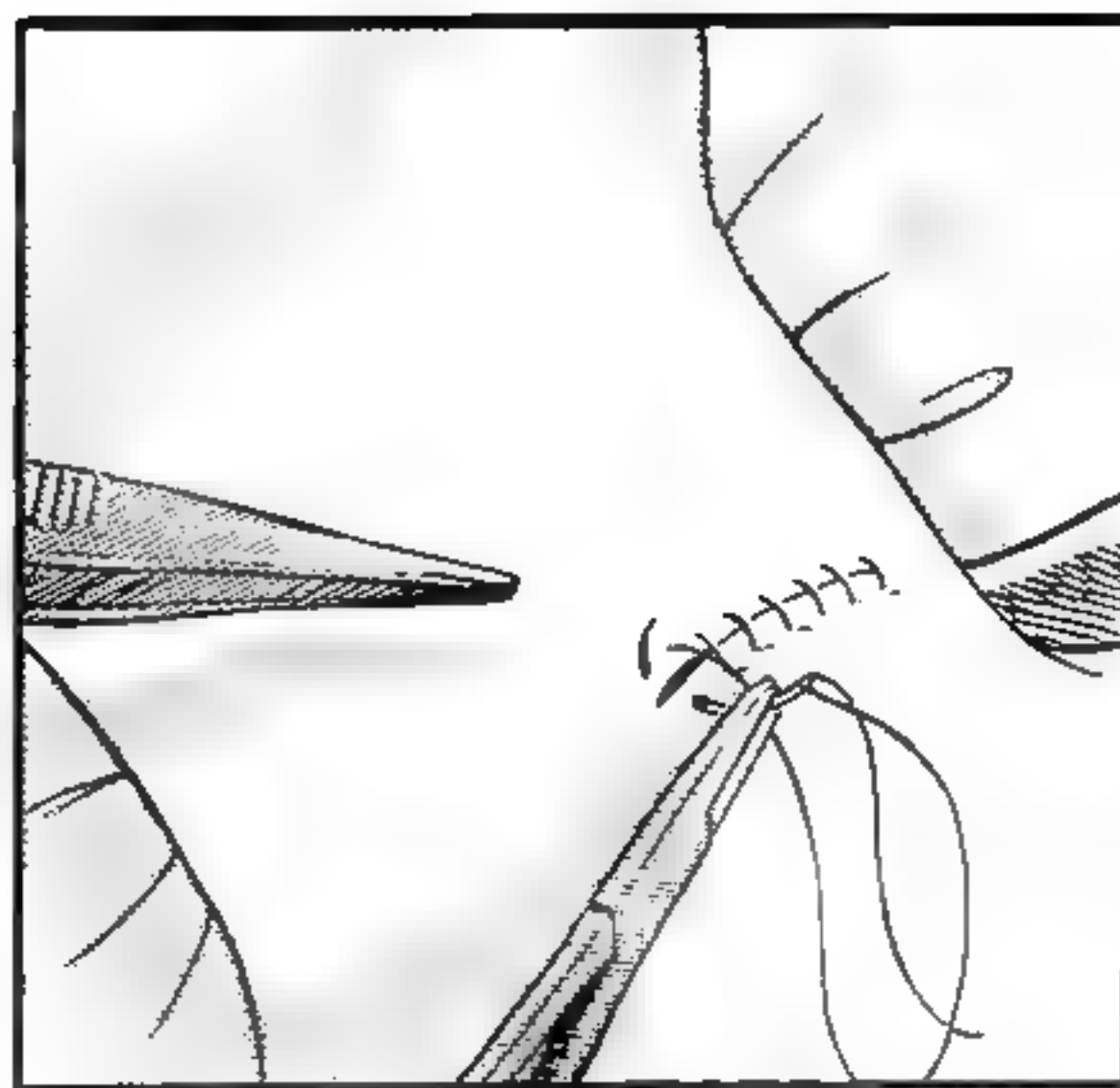










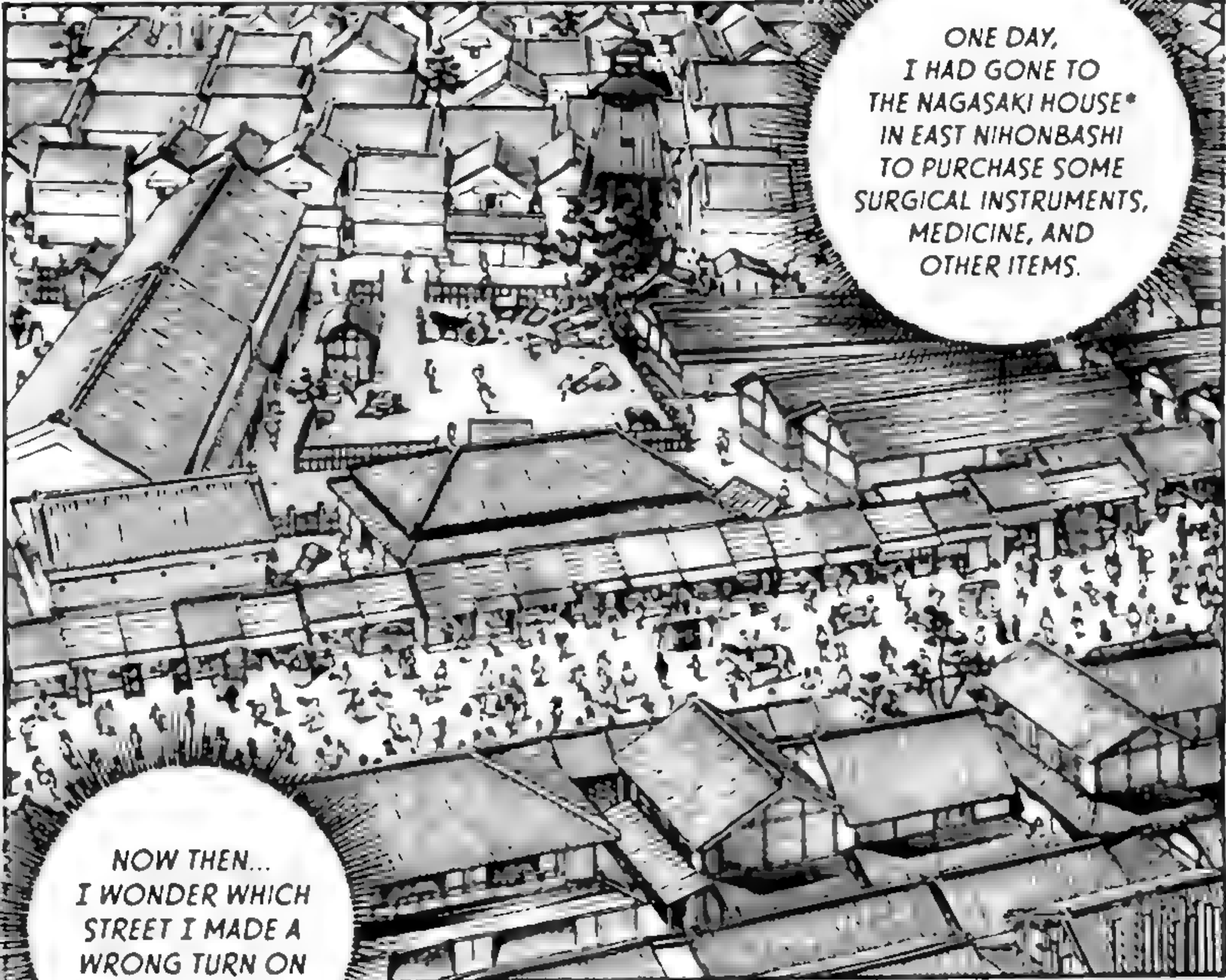









## VIRTUE CHAPTER PART 1: THE SILENCE OF DISEASE



ONE DAY,  
I HAD GONE TO  
THE NAGASAKI HOUSE\*  
IN EAST NIHONBASHI  
TO PURCHASE SOME  
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS,  
MEDICINE, AND  
OTHER ITEMS.

NOW THEN...  
I WONDER WHICH  
STREET I MADE A  
WRONG TURN ON  
AFTER THAT...



BY THE TIME  
I REALIZED IT,  
THE SUN HAD  
ALREADY SET.





FINALLY,  
I'VE REACHED  
THE SHŌHEI MILL,  
WHICH IS IN FRONT OF  
THE YUSHIMA TEMPLE  
AND OVERLOOKS  
THE KANDA RIVER  
ON THE LEFT

# VIRTUE CHAPTER PART 1: THE SILENCE OF DISEASE















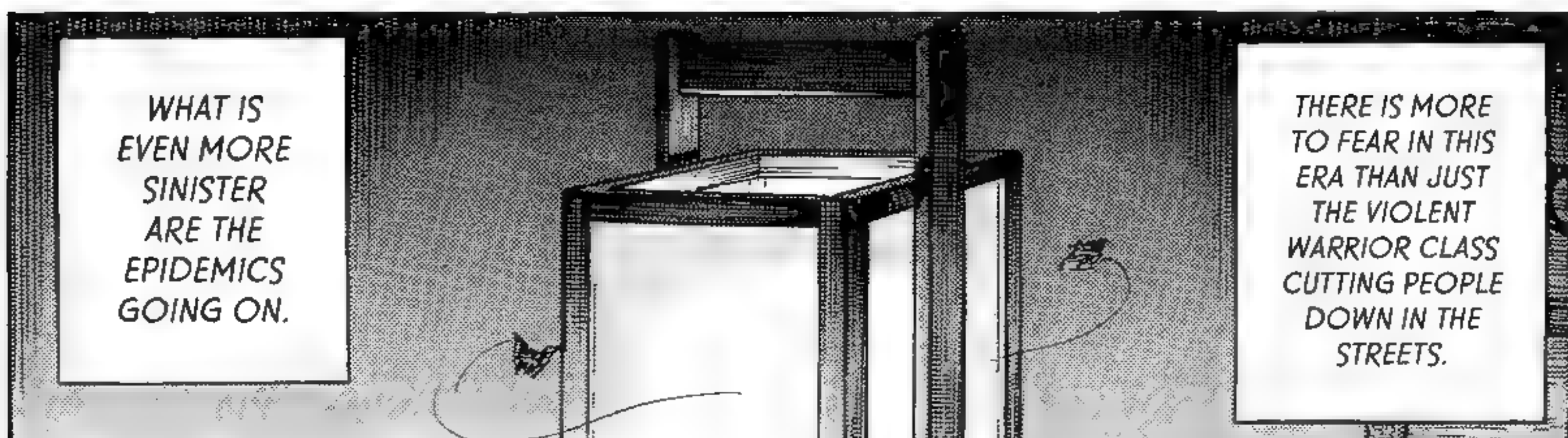
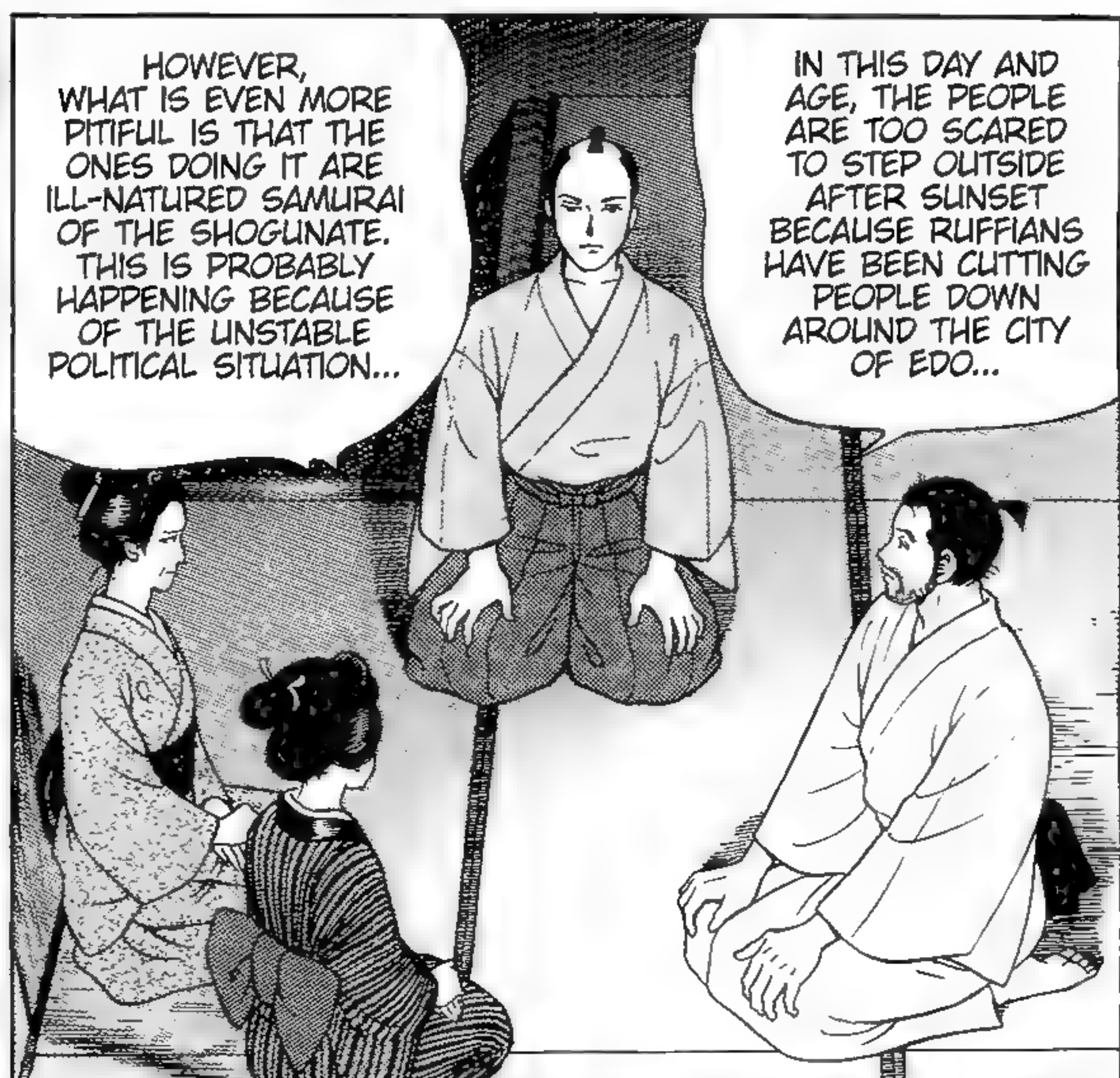




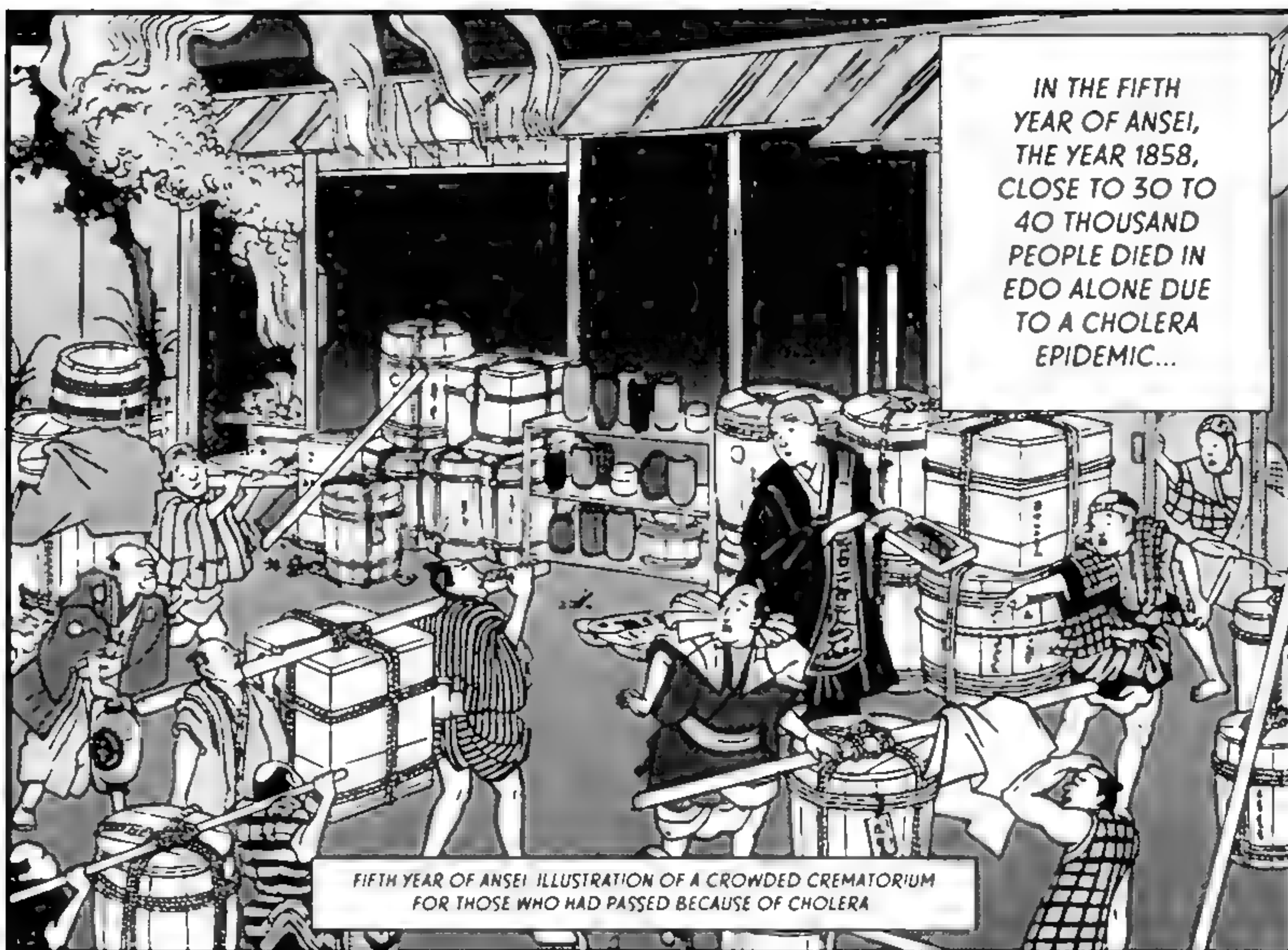
THE  
TACHI-  
BANA  
HOUSE





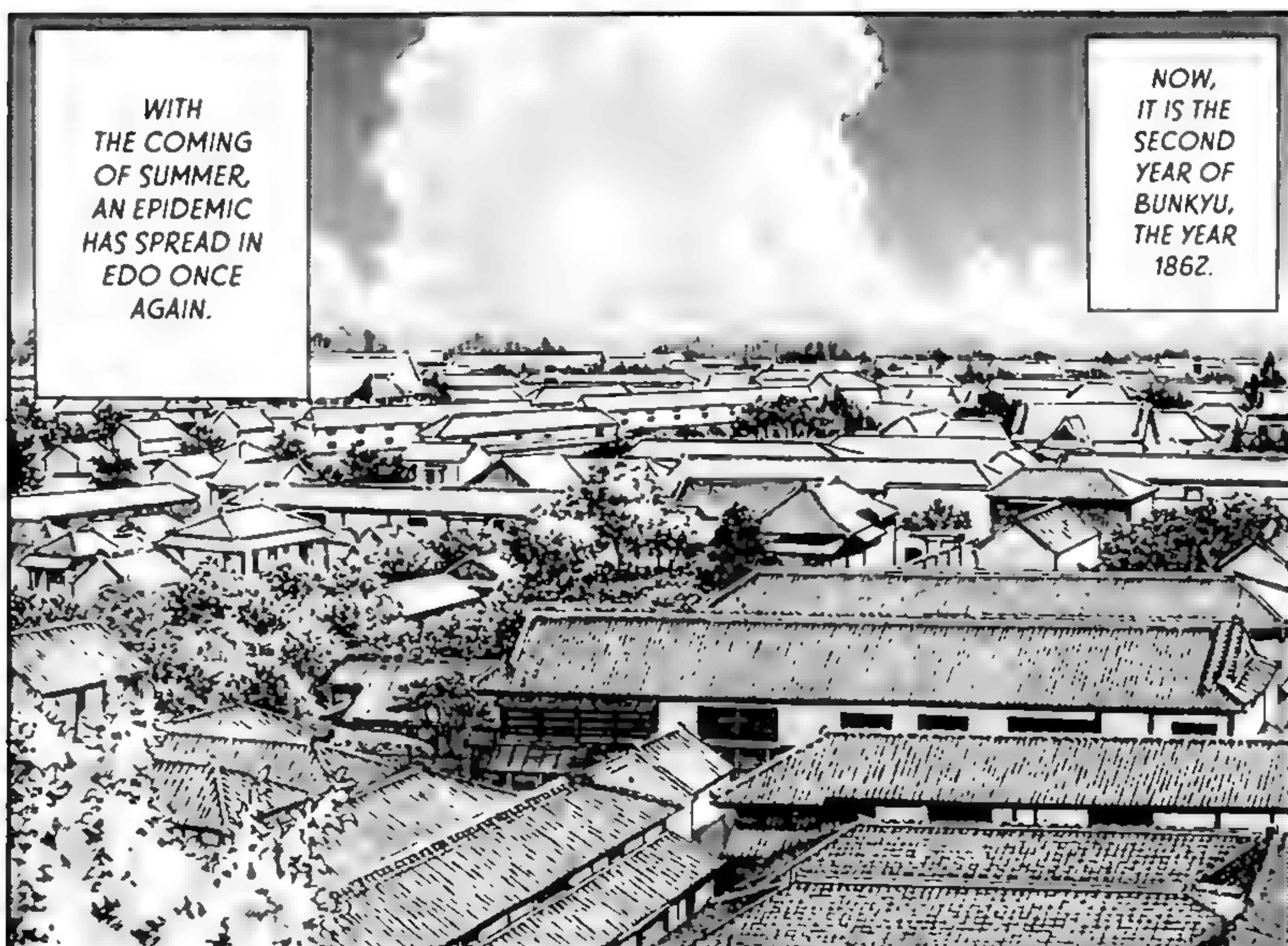






IN THE FIFTH  
YEAR OF ANSEI,  
THE YEAR 1858,  
CLOSE TO 30 TO  
40 THOUSAND  
PEOPLE DIED IN  
EDO ALONE DUE  
TO A CHOLERA  
EPIDEMIC...

FIFTH YEAR OF ANSEI ILLUSTRATION OF A CROWDED CREMATORIUM  
FOR THOSE WHO HAD PASSED BECAUSE OF CHOLERA



WITH  
THE COMING  
OF SUMMER,  
AN EPIDEMIC  
HAS SPREAD IN  
EDO ONCE  
AGAIN.

NOW,  
IT IS THE  
SECOND  
YEAR OF  
BUNKYU,  
THE YEAR  
1862.



THE MORTALITY RATE FOR MEASLES WAS VERY HIGH. THERE WAS EVEN A SAYING: "SMALLPOX DECIDES THE FATE OF YOUR PRETTY FACE. MEASLES DECIDES THE FATE OF YOUR LIFE." SINCE THERE WOULD BE A BREAKOUT EVERY 20 TO 30 YEARS, MOST PATIENTS WOULD GET IT AFTER THEY BECAME ADULTS.

THAT EPIDEMIC IS THE MEASLES.



IT SEEMS LIKE MY DAUGHTER HAS CAUGHT THE MEASLES. I ASK IF YOU COULD PLEASE TREAT HER!

I'M TOYODA JIHEI, THE OWNER OF A MONEY EXCHANGE IN NIHONBASHI. I HEARD FROM KAGAYA THE TEA VENDOR THAT YOU, MINAKATA-SENSEI, ARE AN OUTSTANDING DOCTOR.

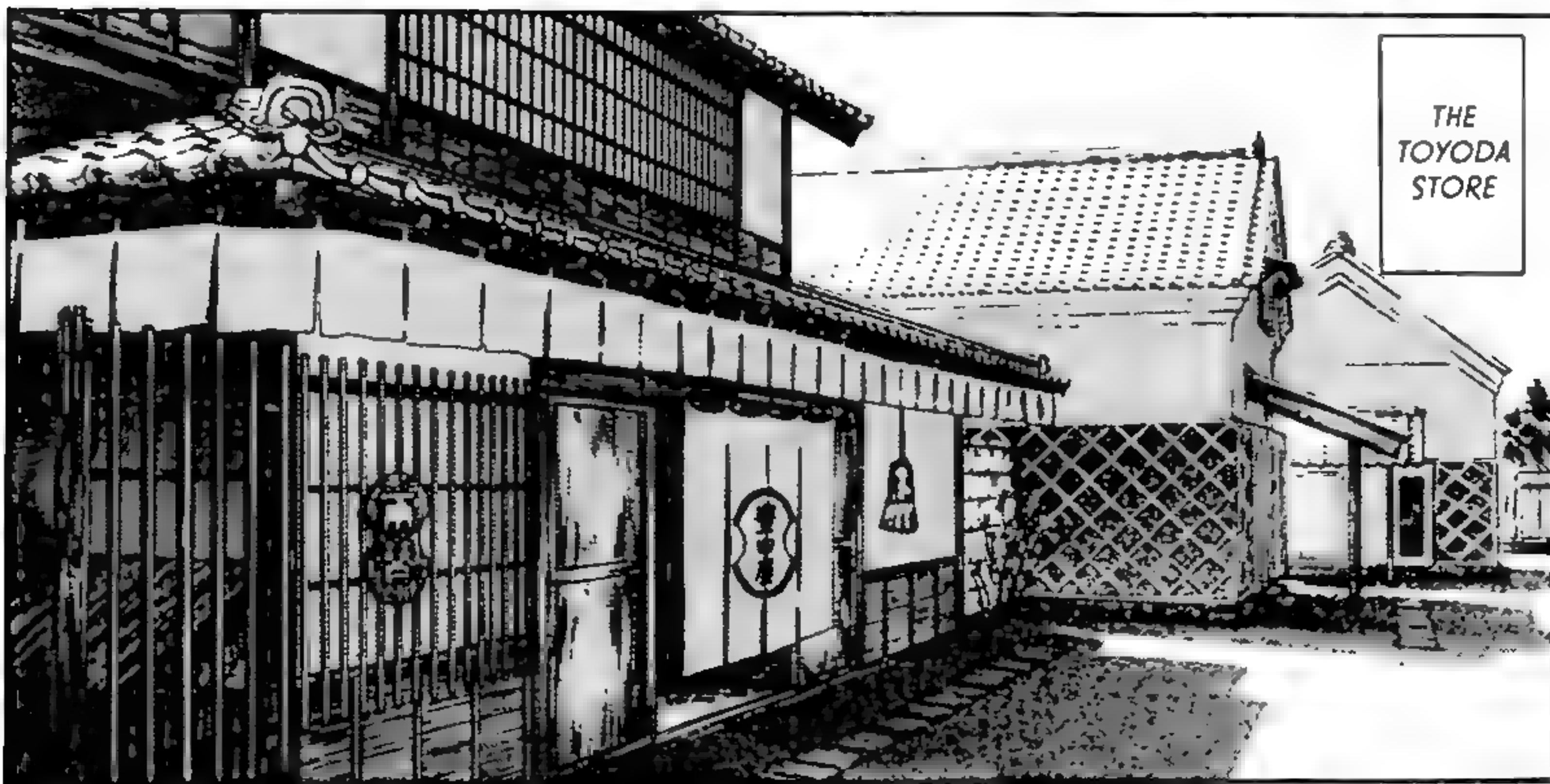
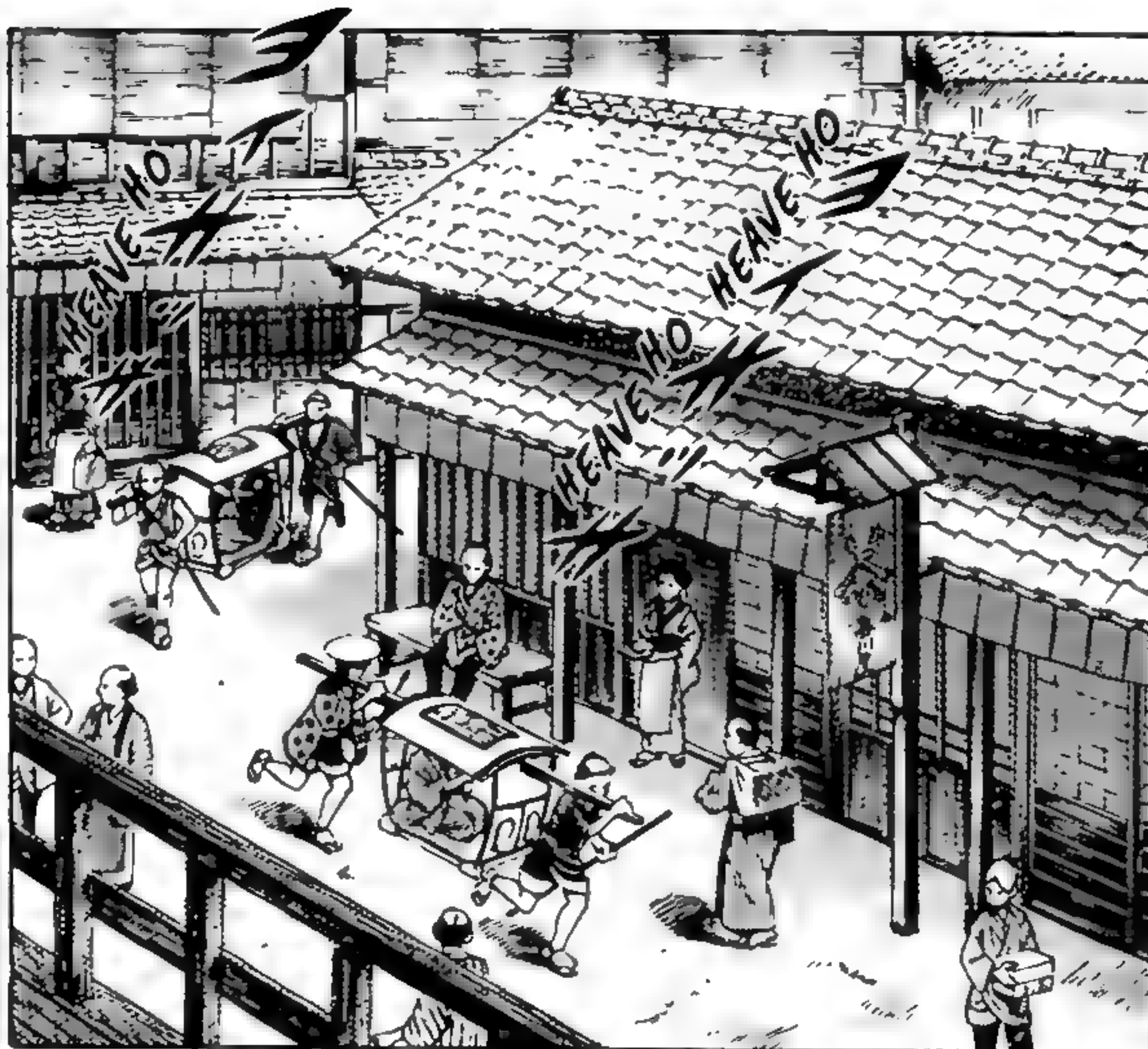
I BEG OF YOU. I'M ON MY KNEES!

NO! THE TREATMENTS OF THE LOCAL DOCTORS HAVE NO EFFECT AT ALL! I CAN ONLY ASK YOU FOR THIS, SENSEI!

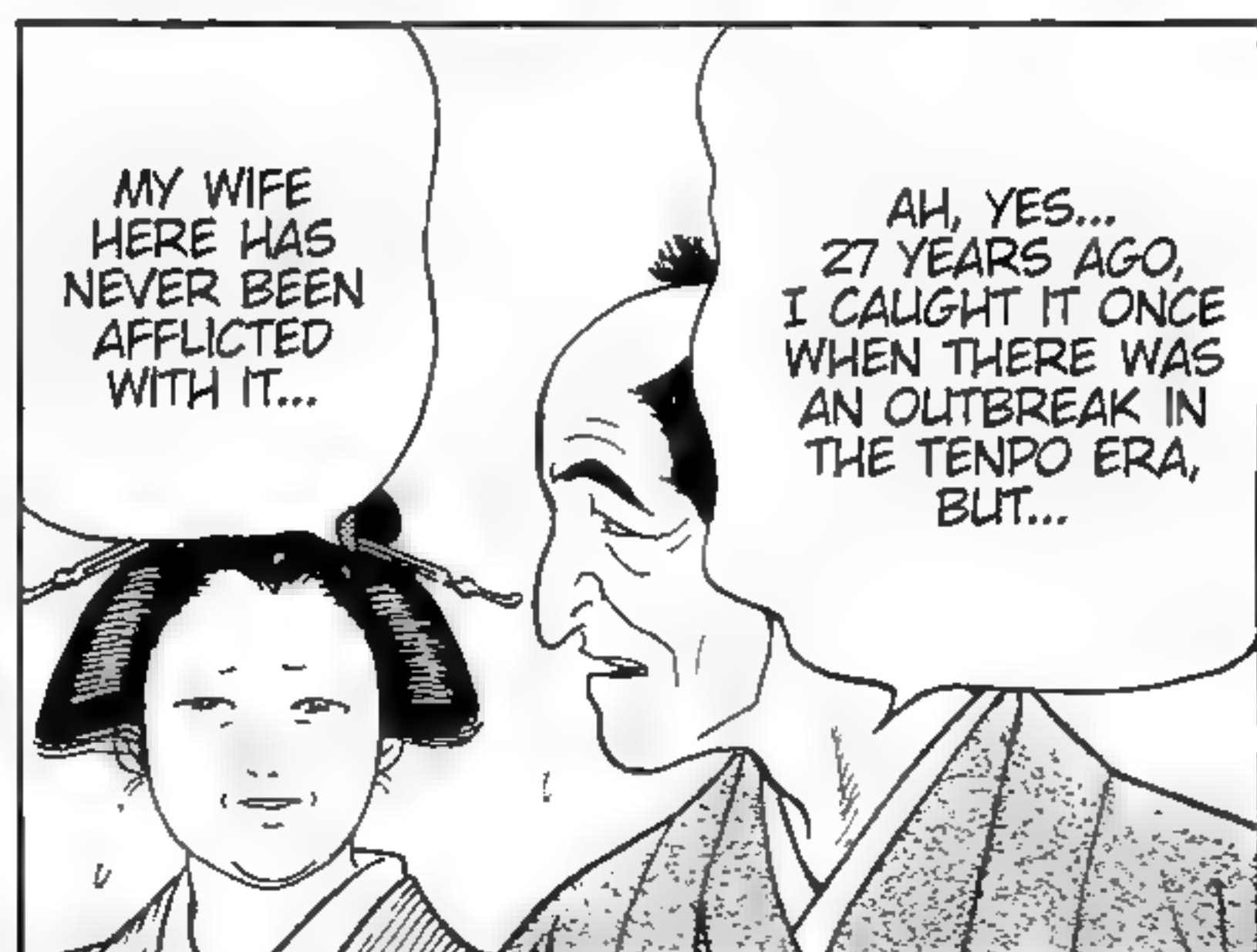
I MUST APOLOGIZE, BUT COULD YOU ASK ANOTHER DOCTOR INSTEAD?

I'M A DOCTOR, BUT MY SPECIALTY IS SURGERY...

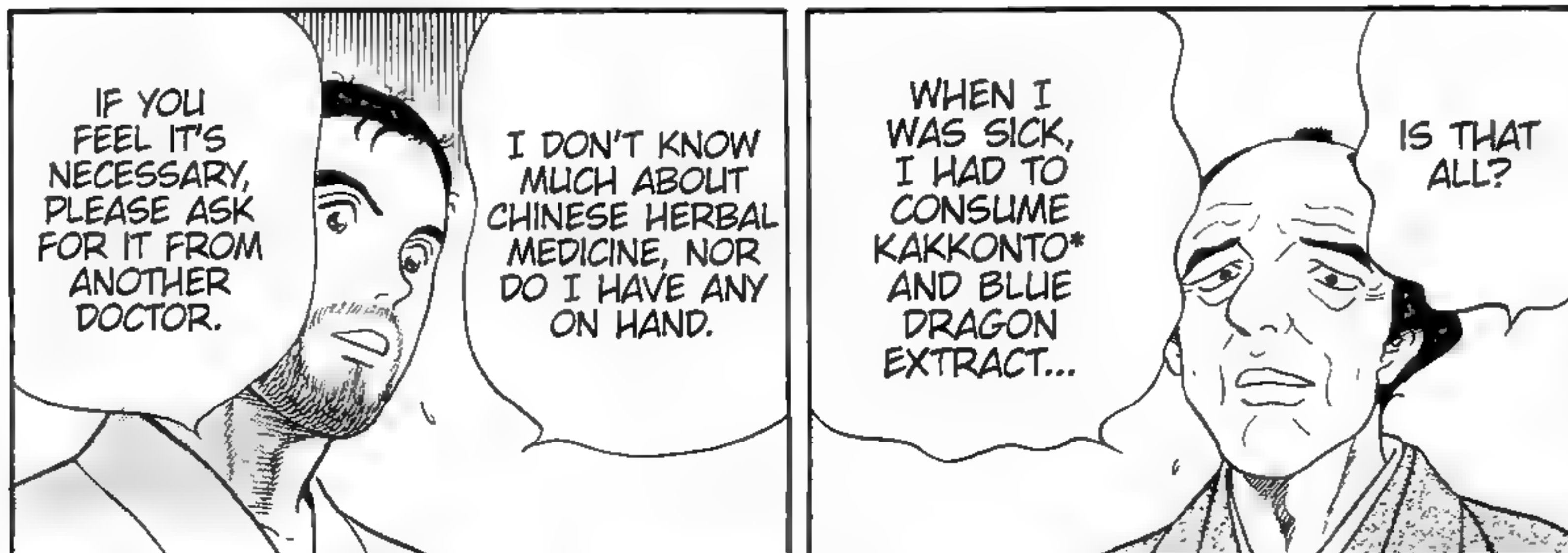




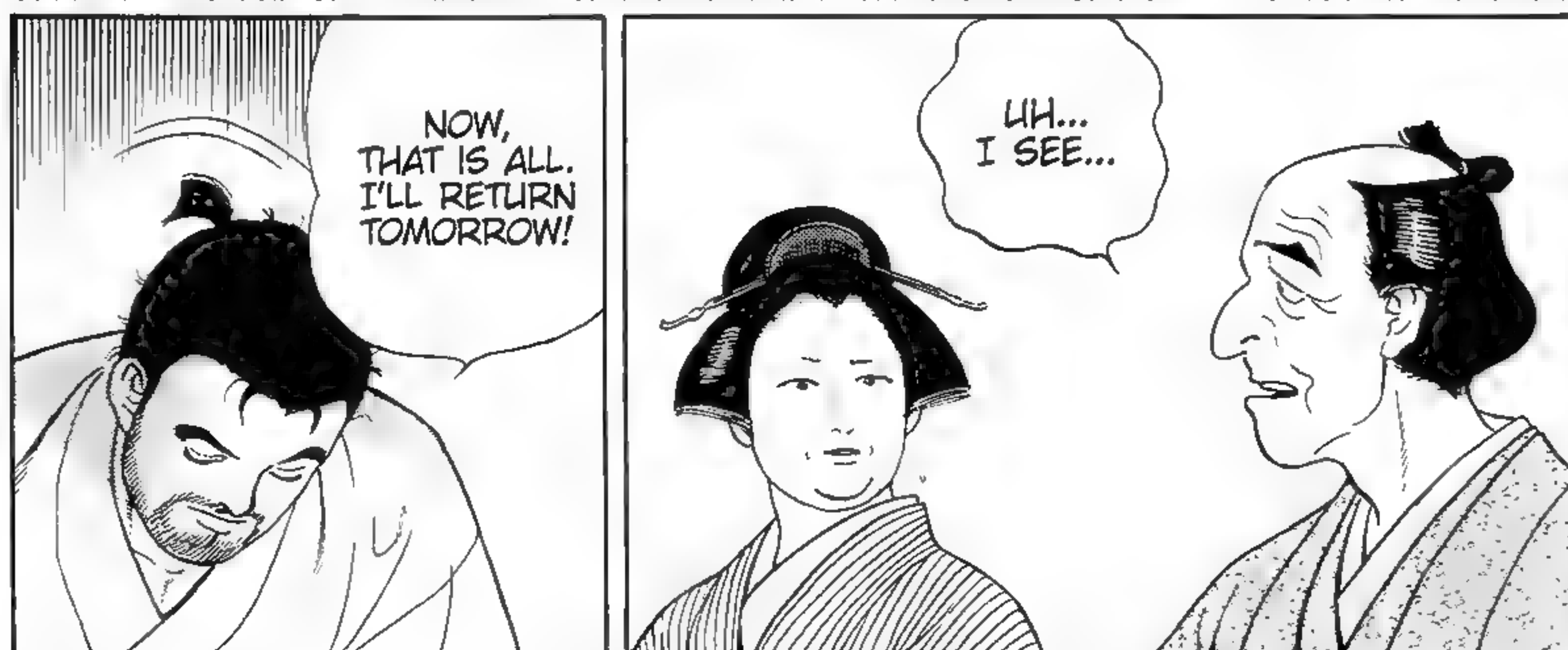




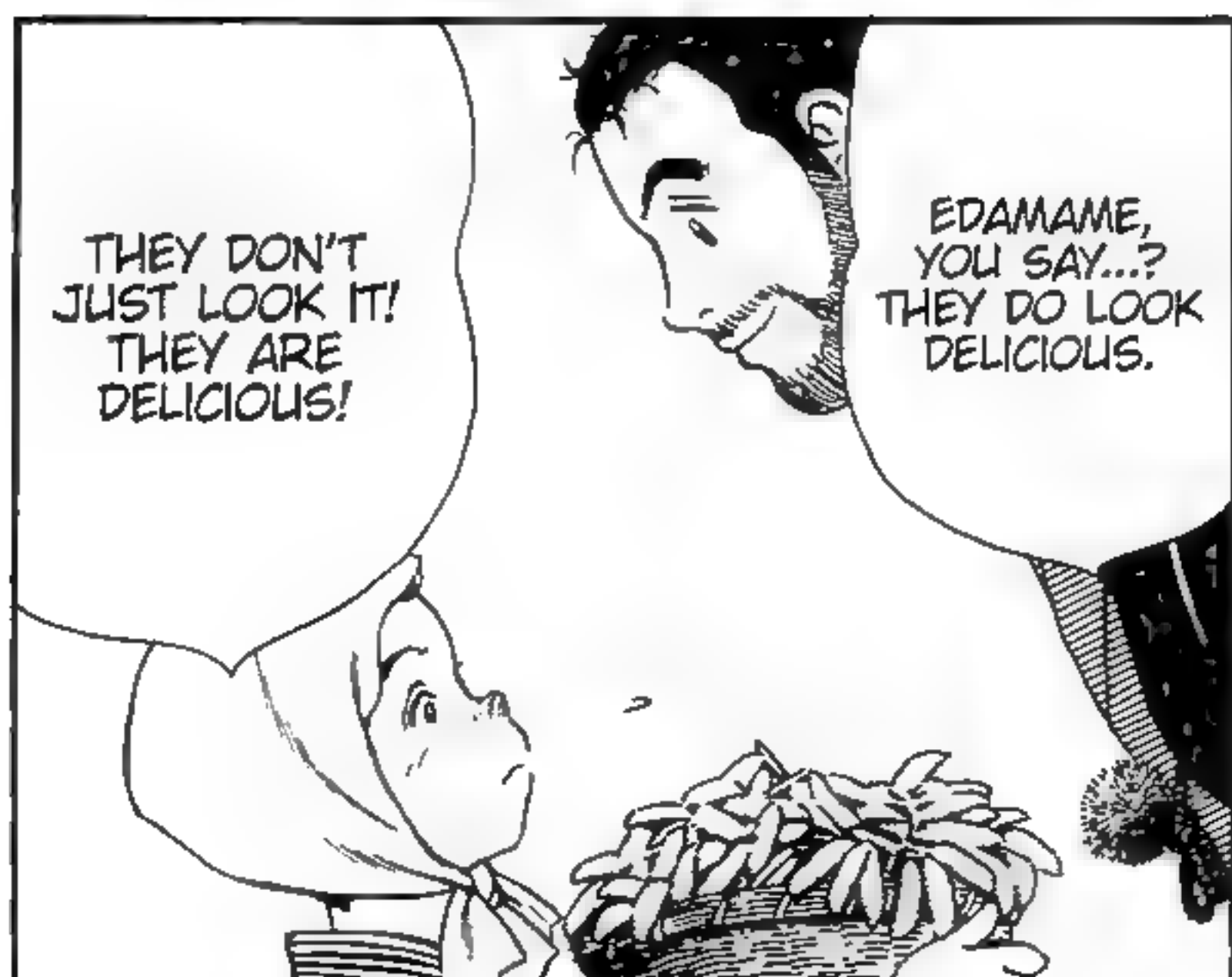




\*KAKKONTO IS AN HERBAL DRINK FROM CHINESE MEDICINE WITH PUERARIA LOBATA AS ITS MAIN ACTIVE INGREDIENT.



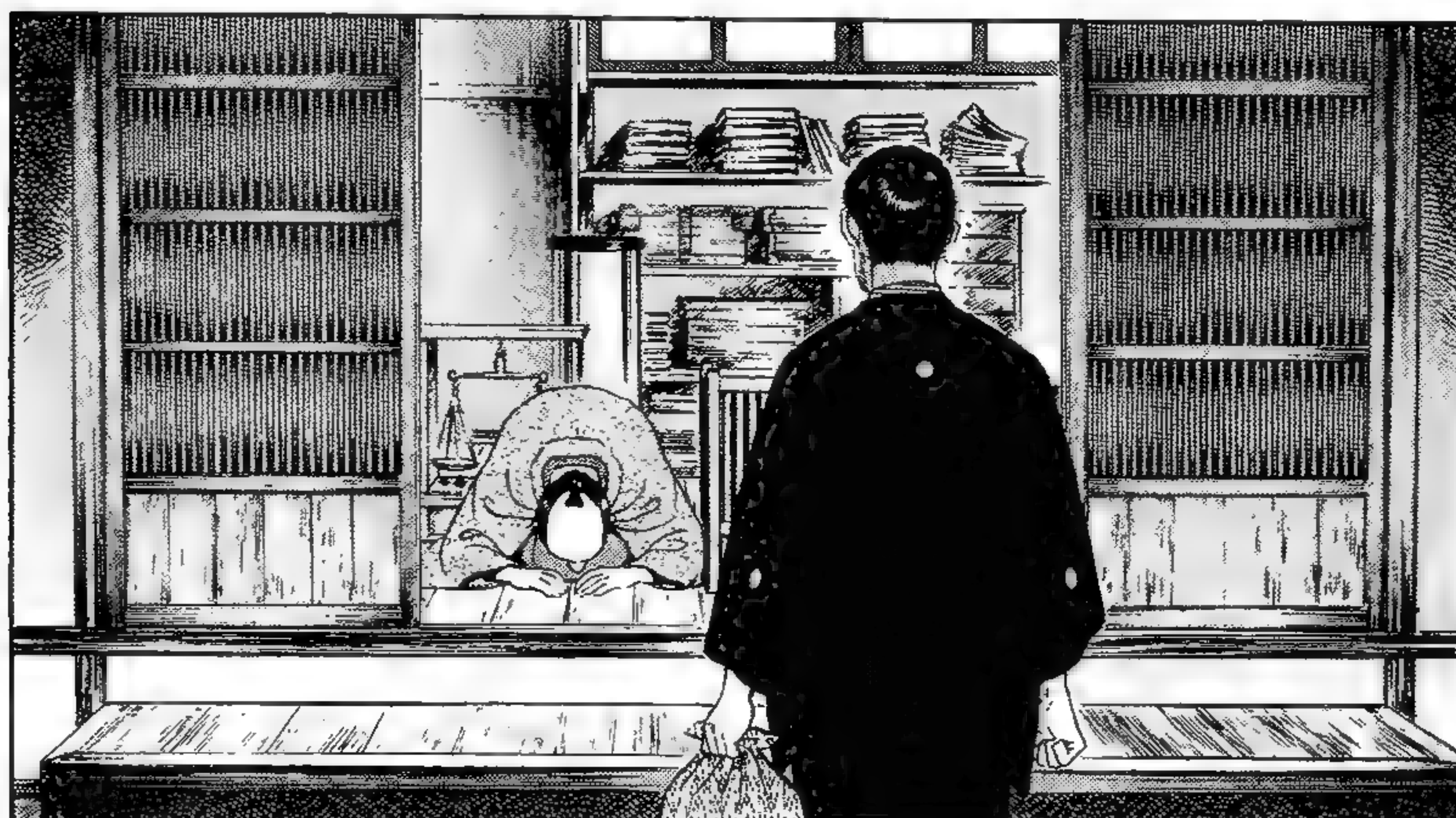
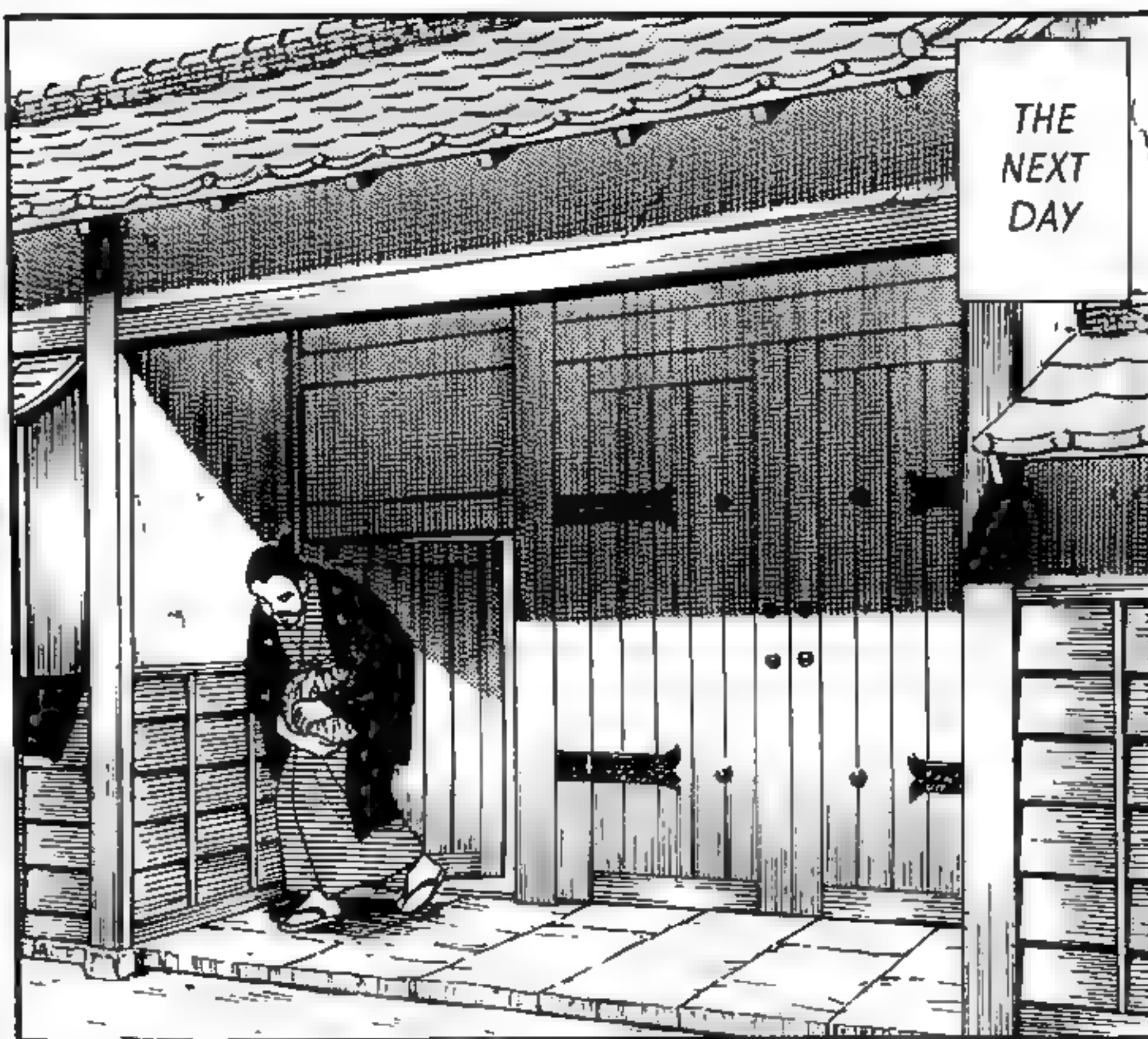




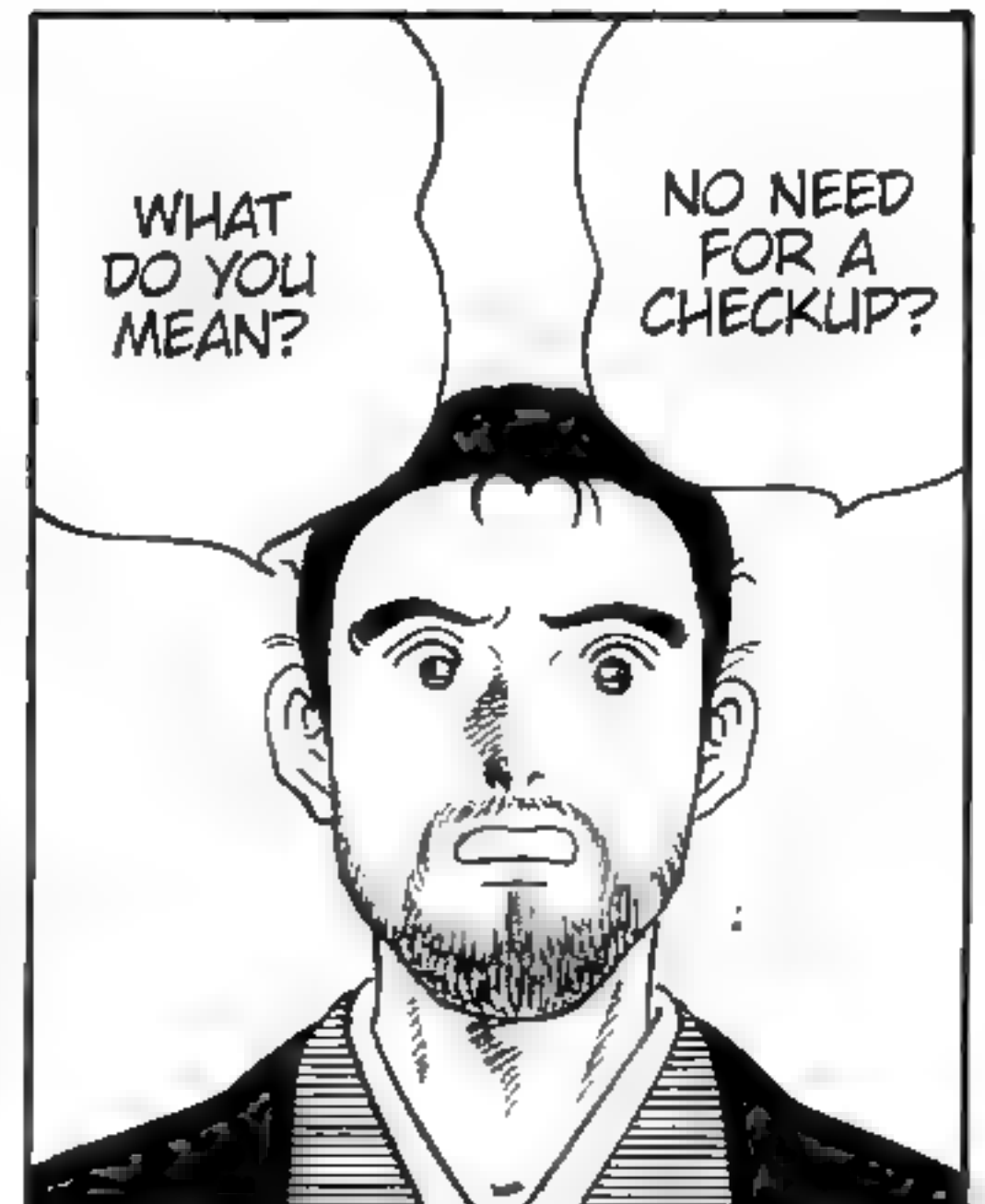
\*IN JAPAN, EDAMAME AND BEER IS A WELL-LIKED COMBINATION WHEN VISITING A BAR.





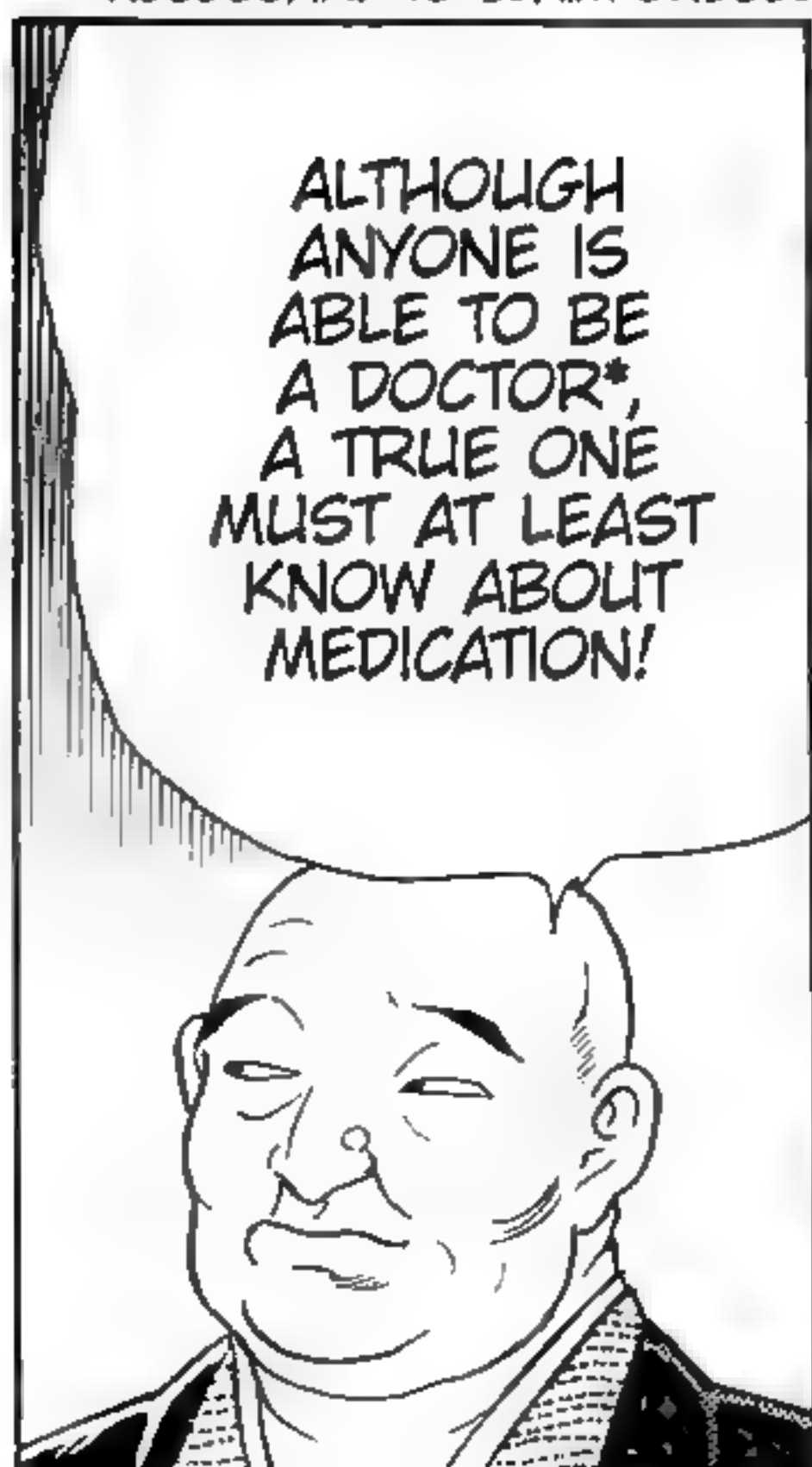




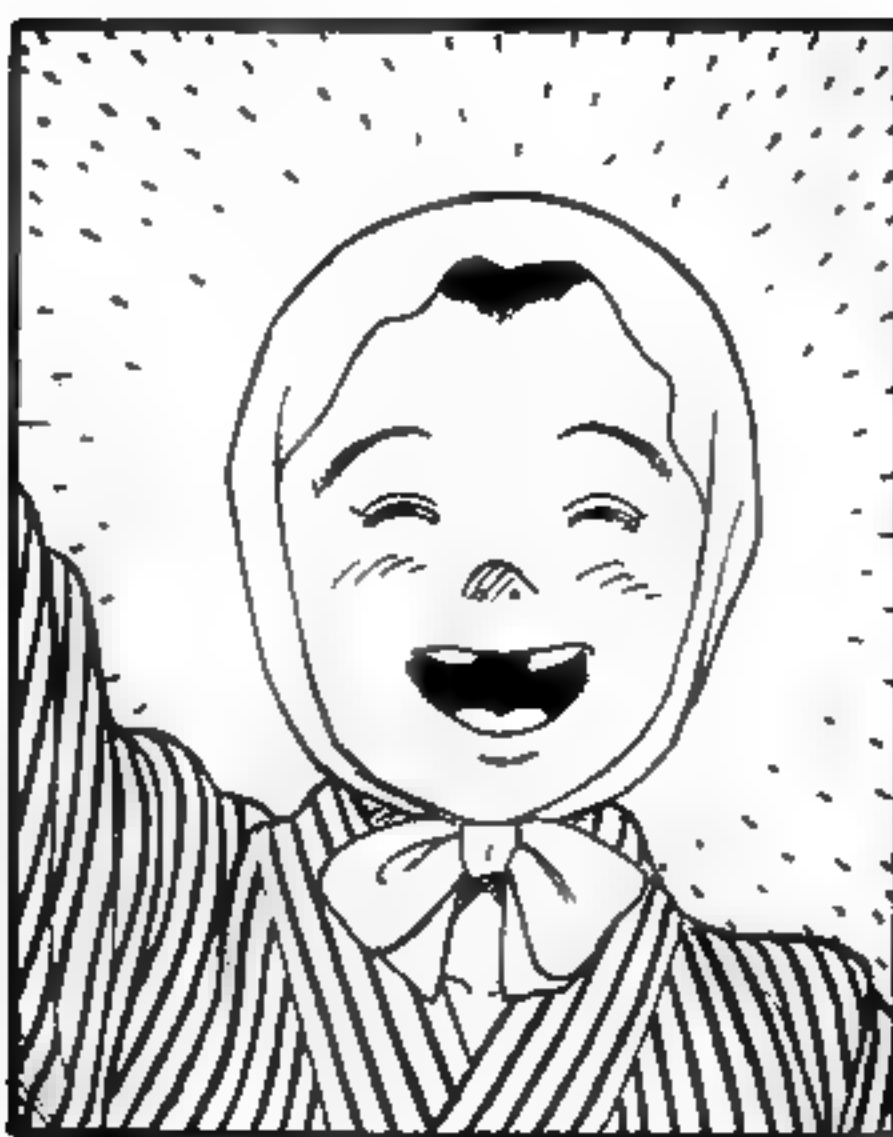




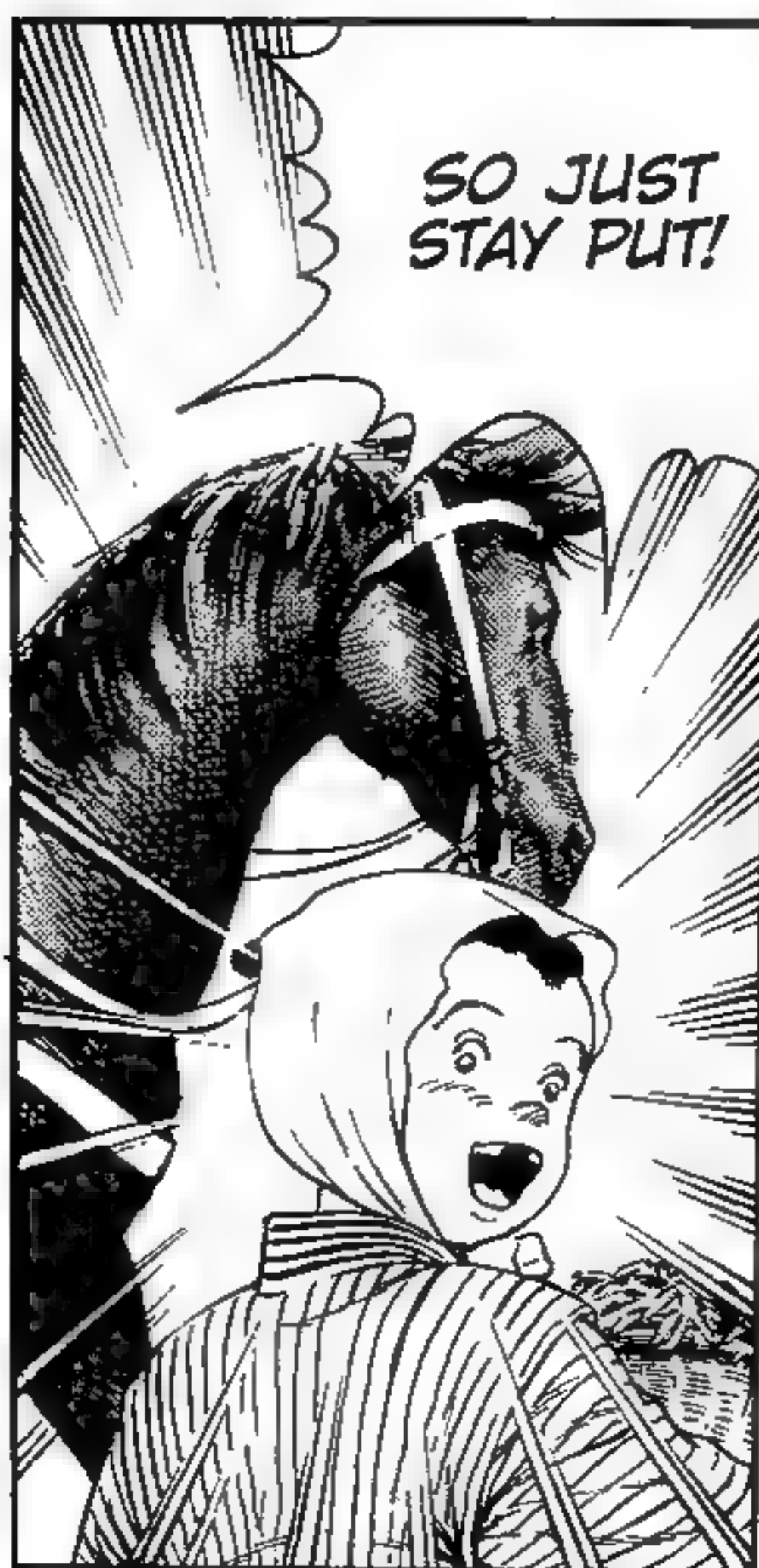
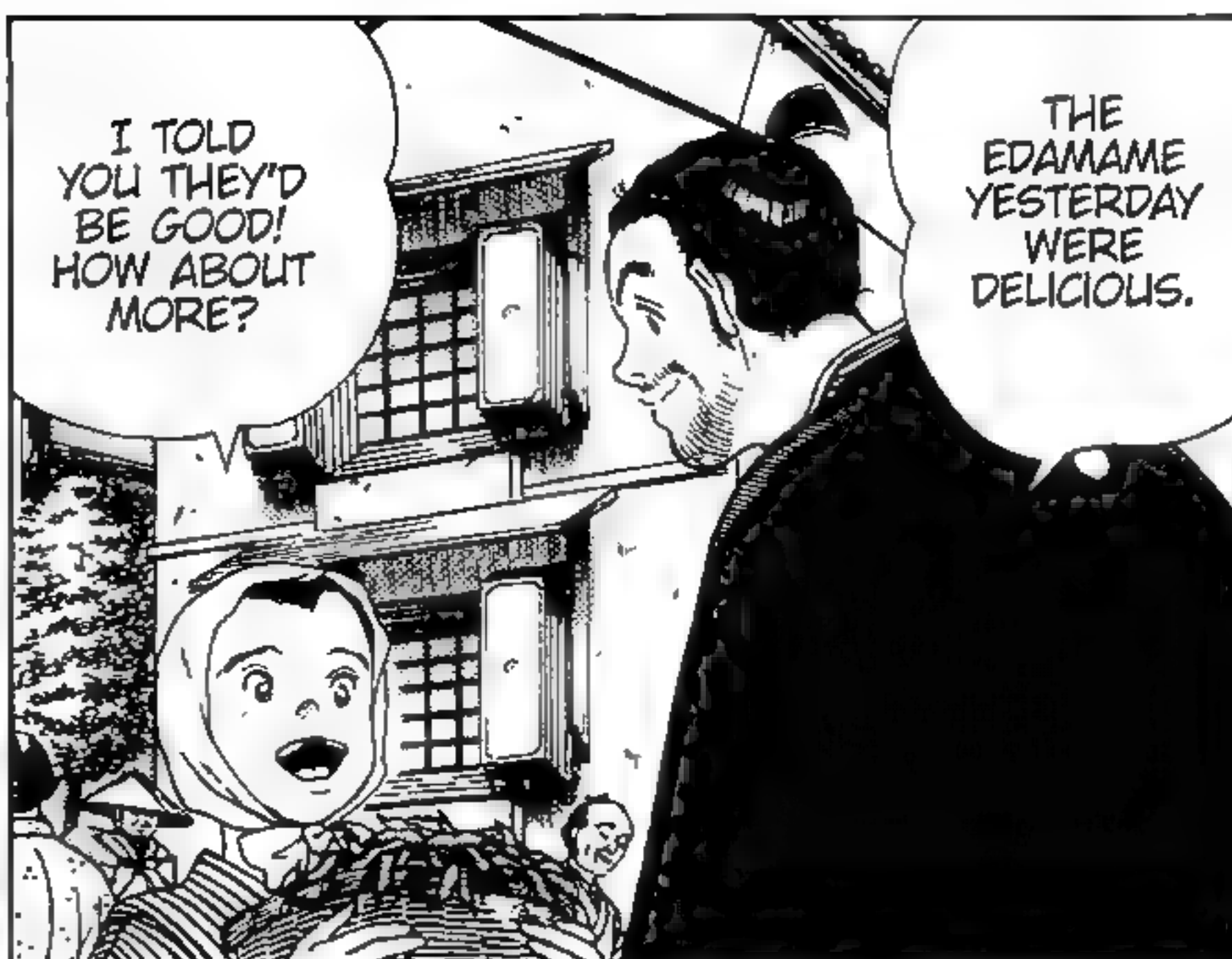
\*DURING THIS ERA, THERE WERE NO QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY TO CLAIM ONESELF AS A DOCTOR.











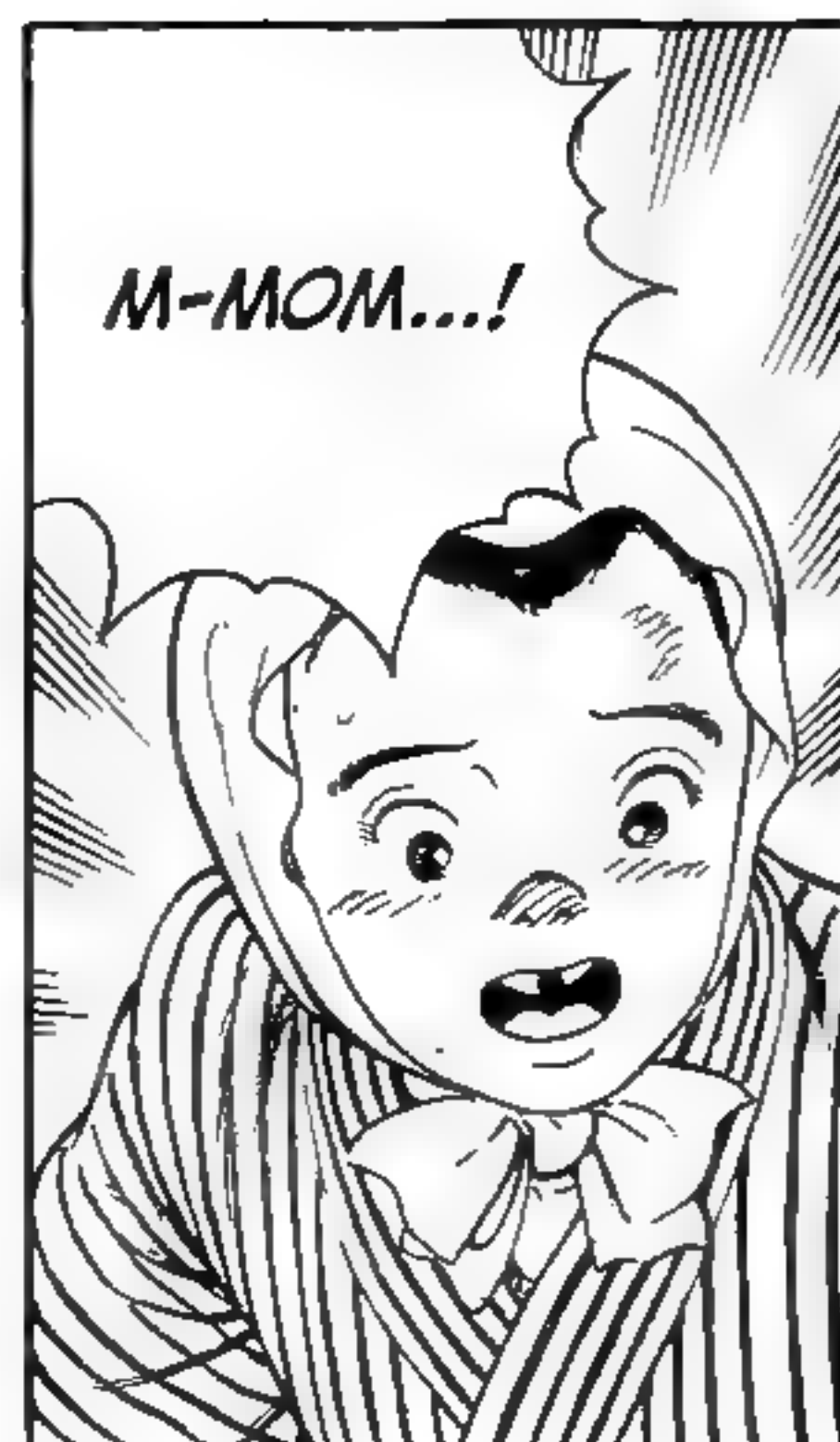








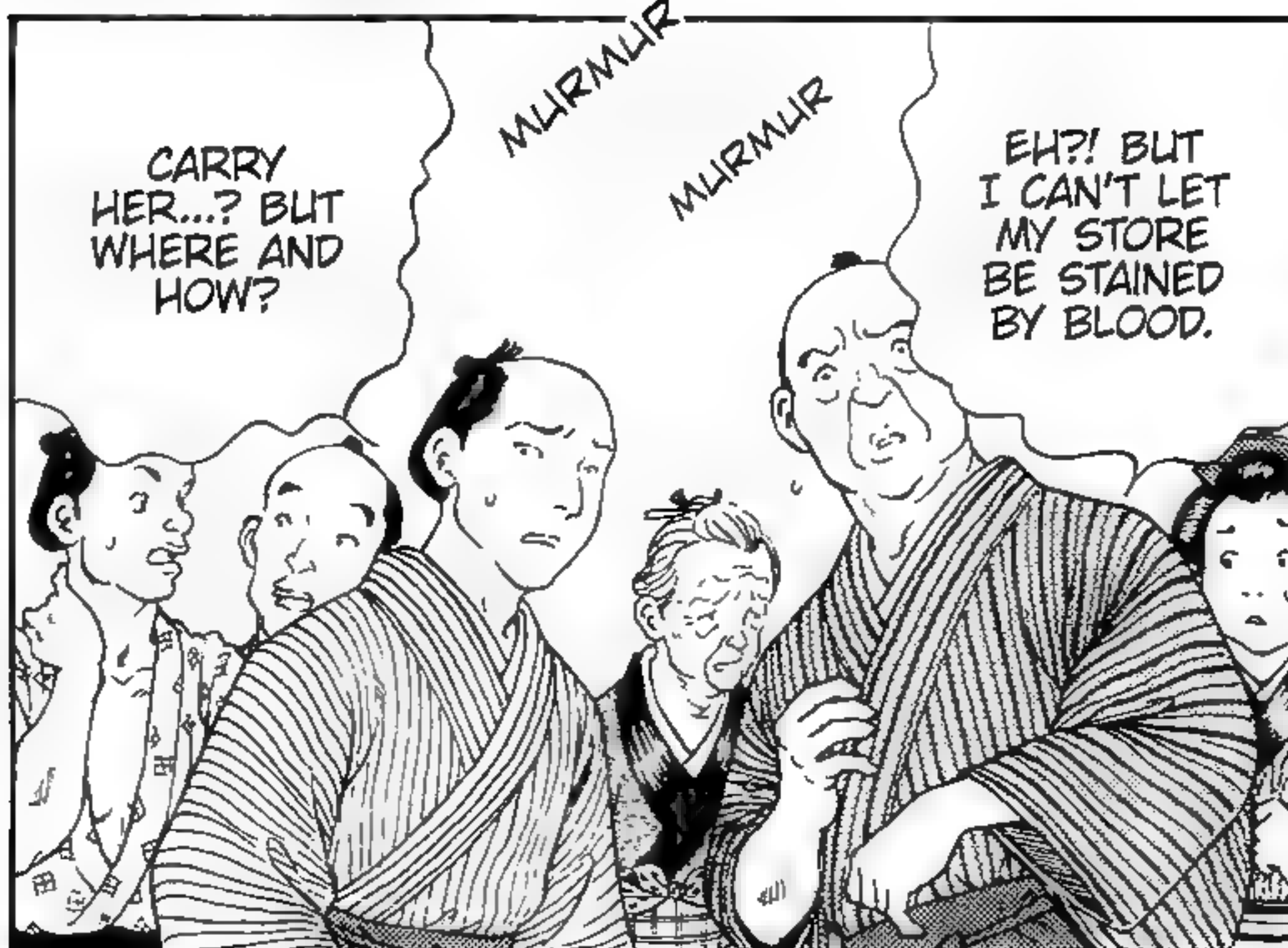








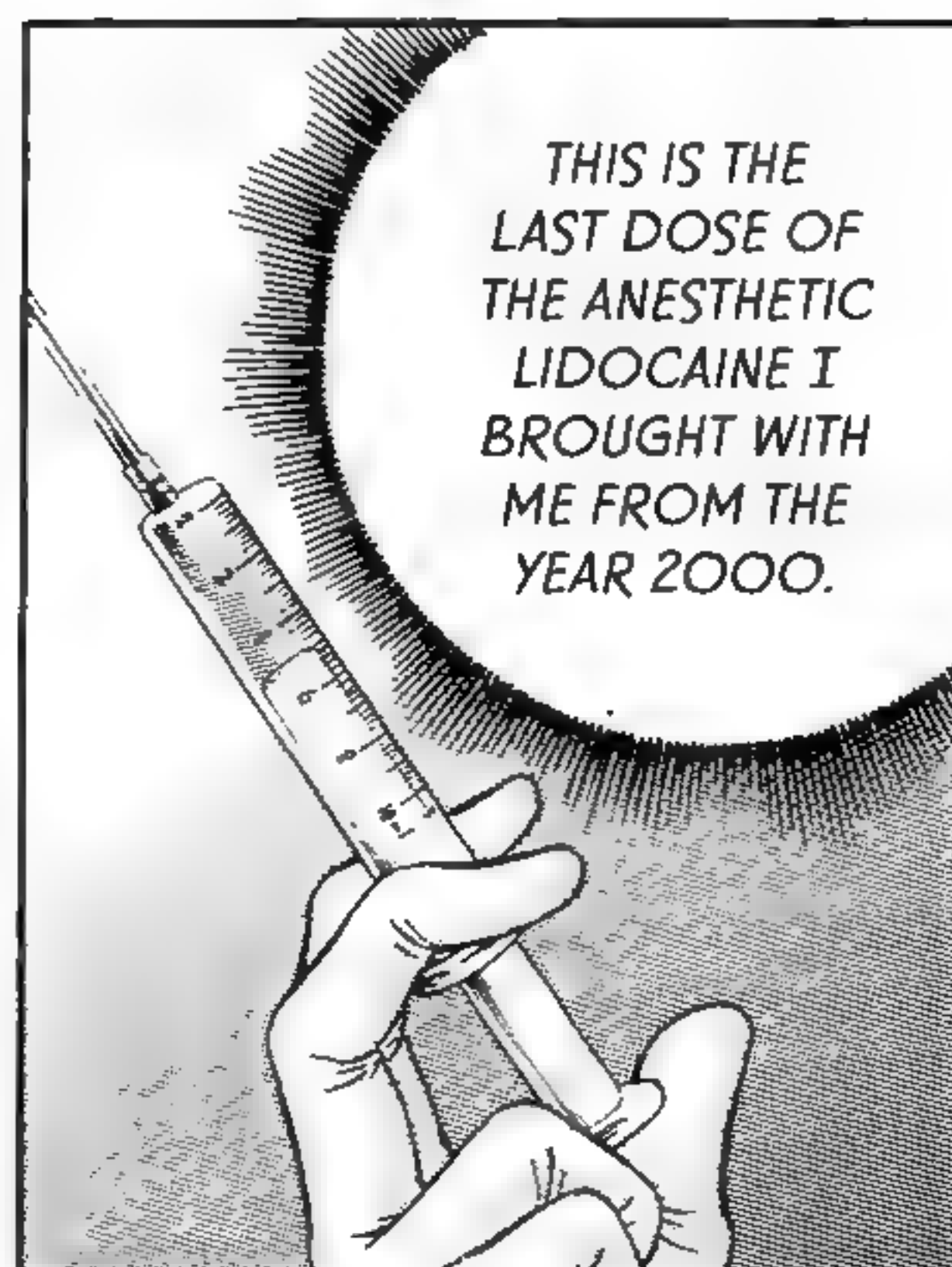




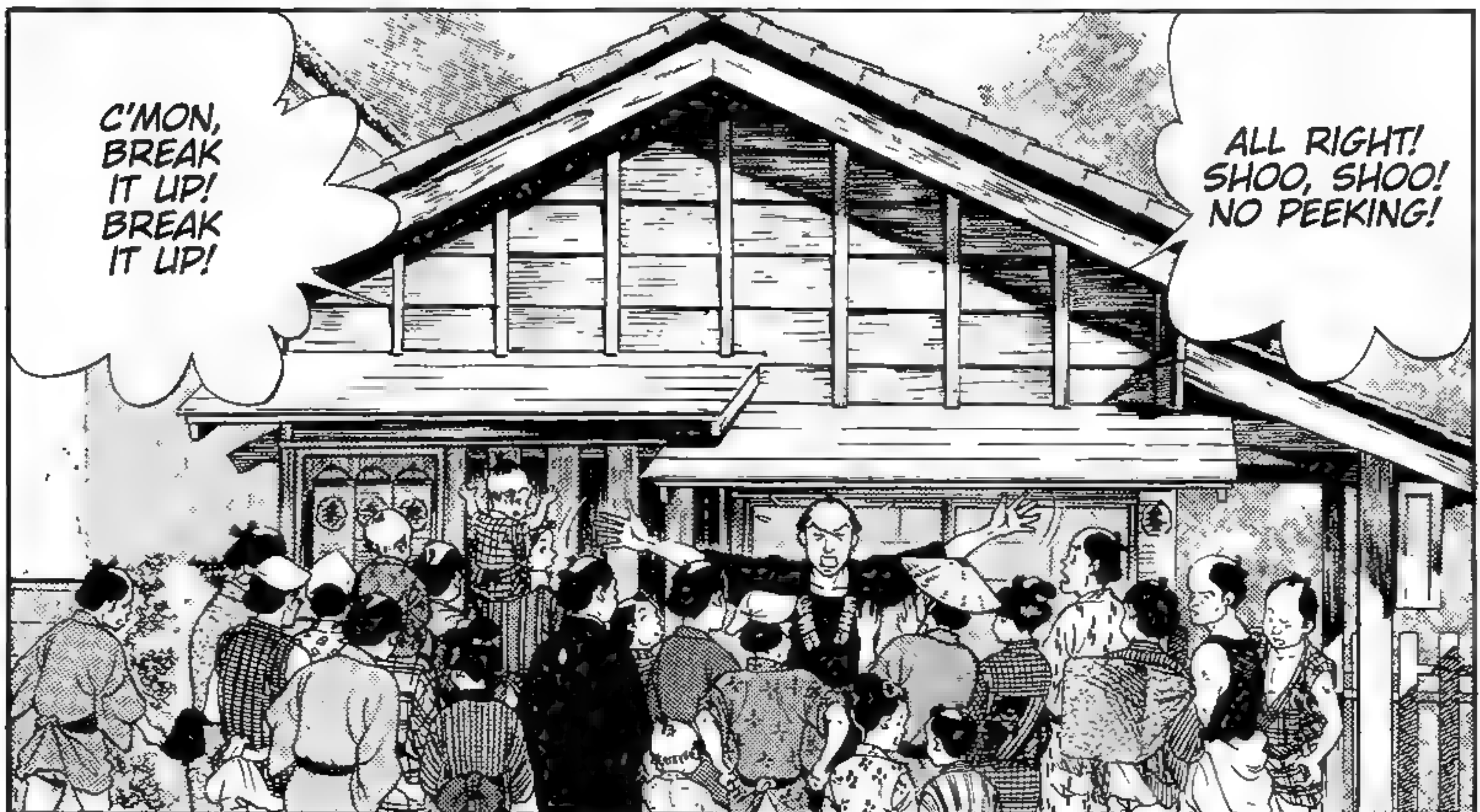
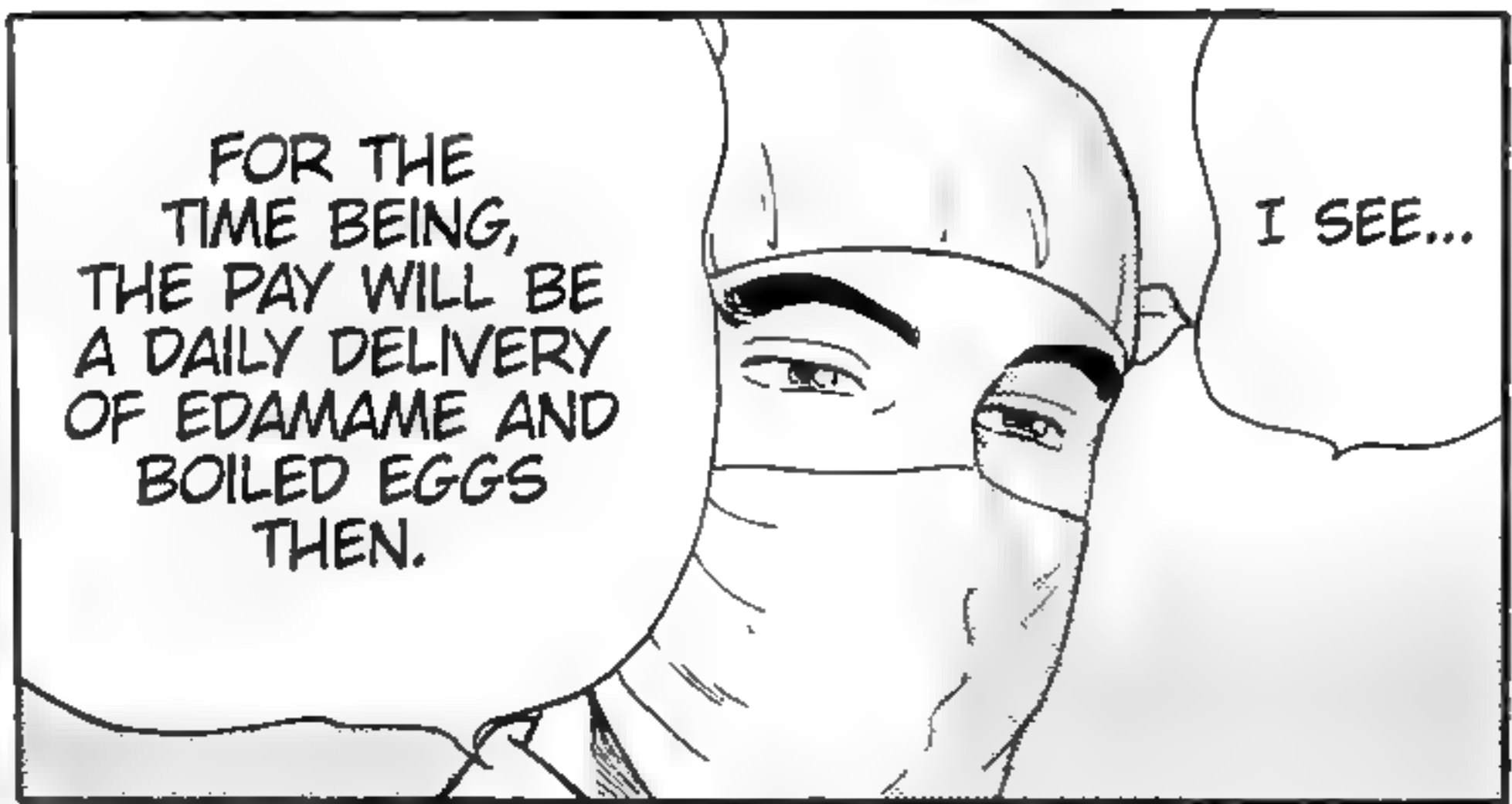




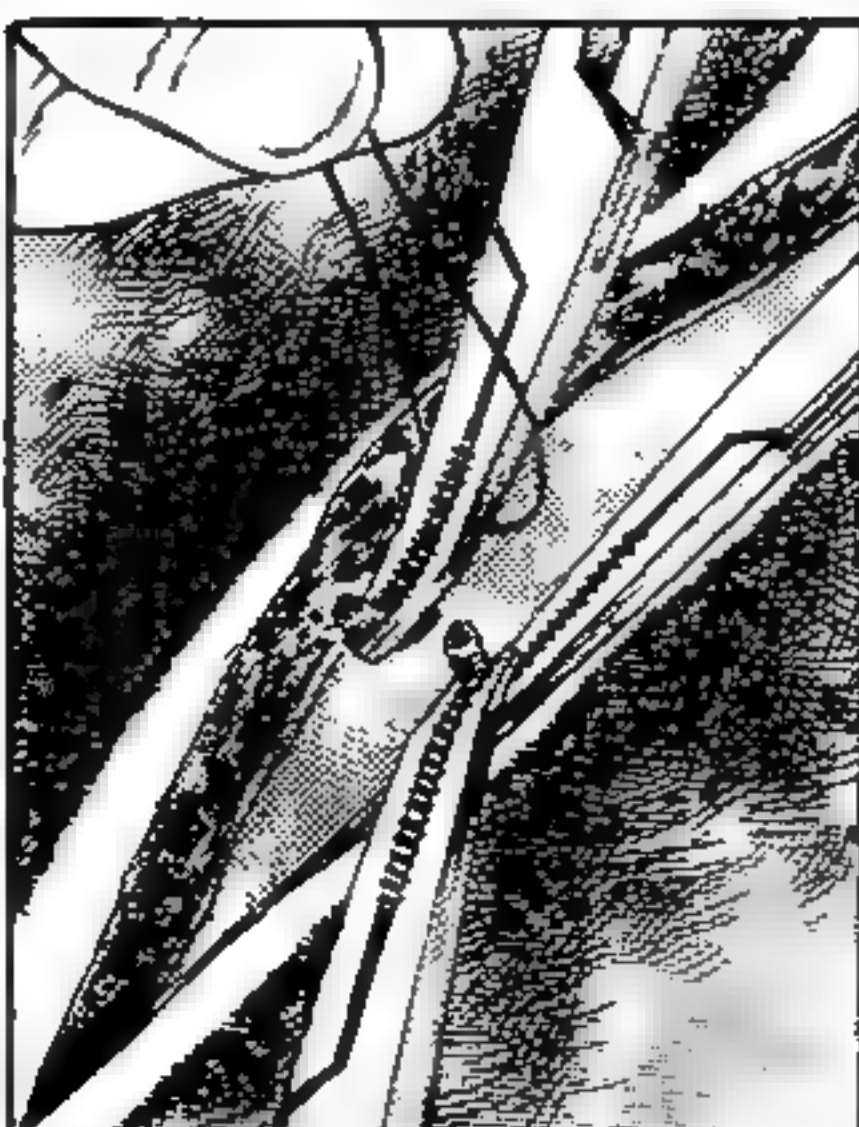
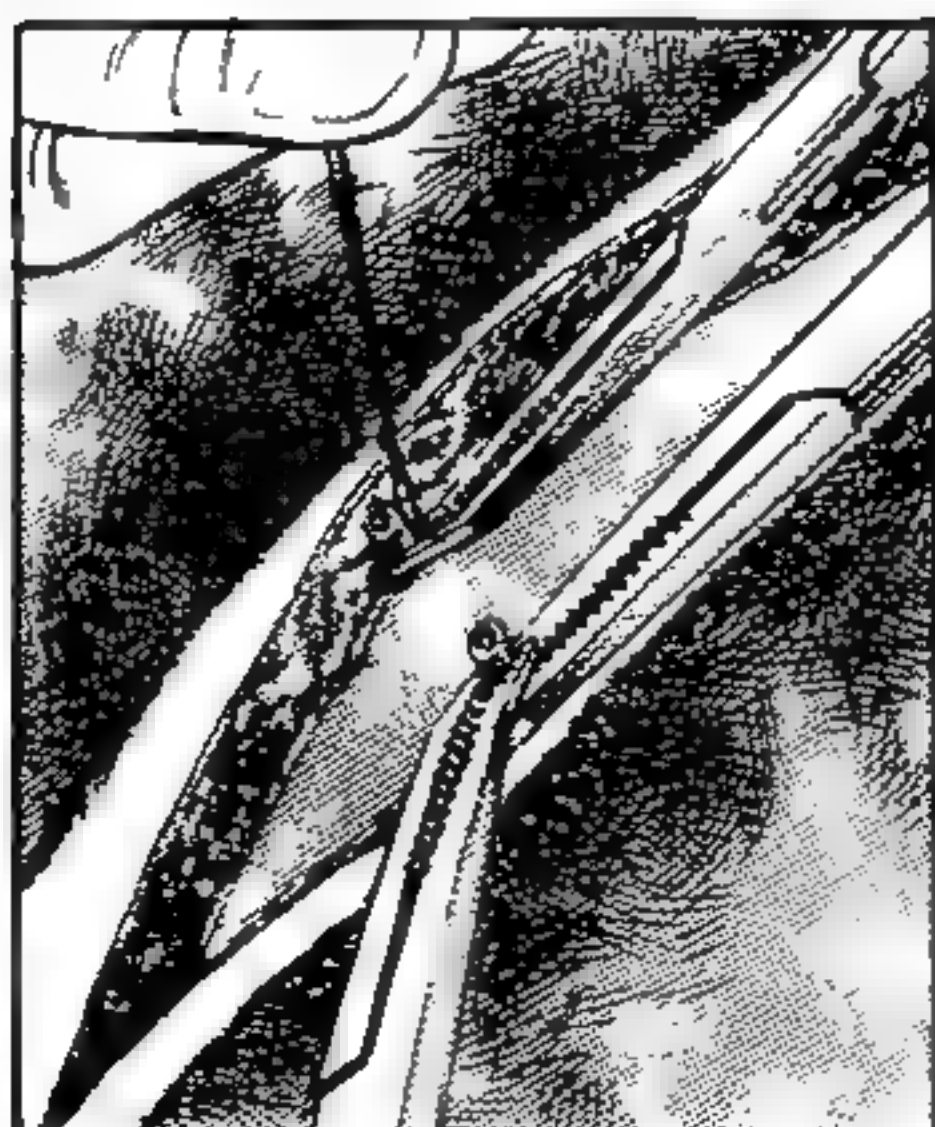




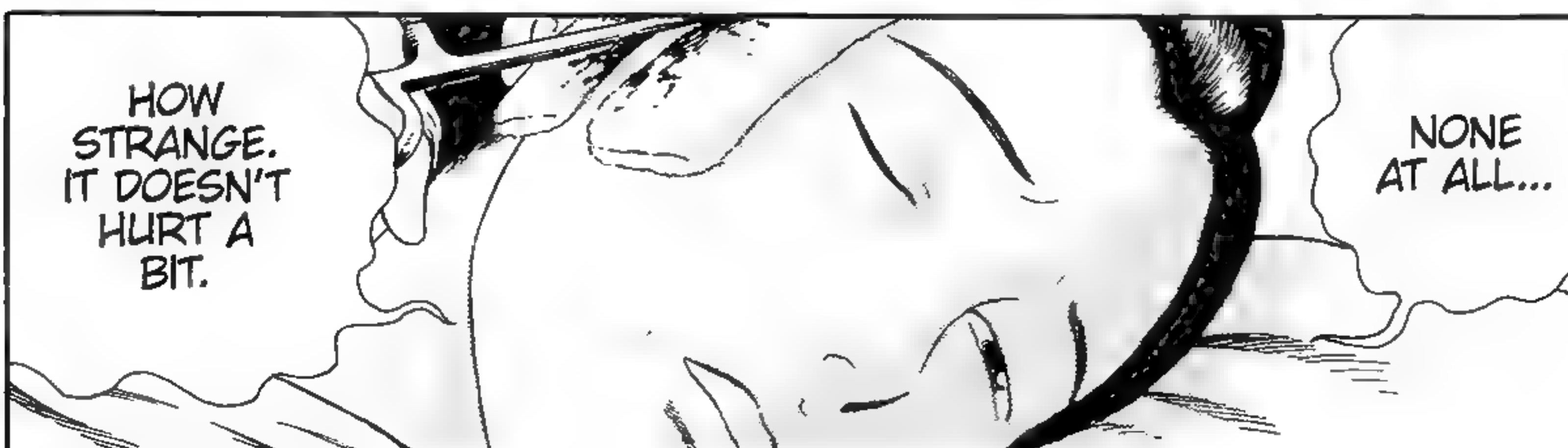
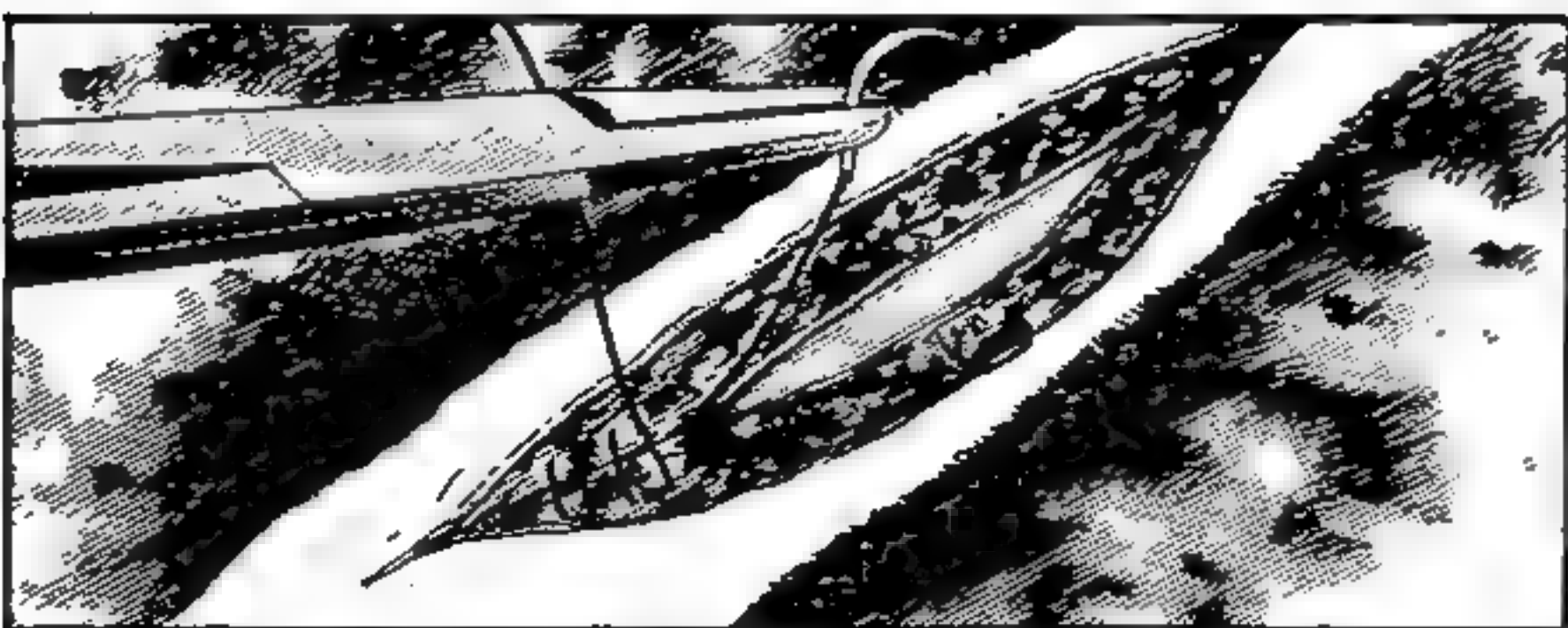




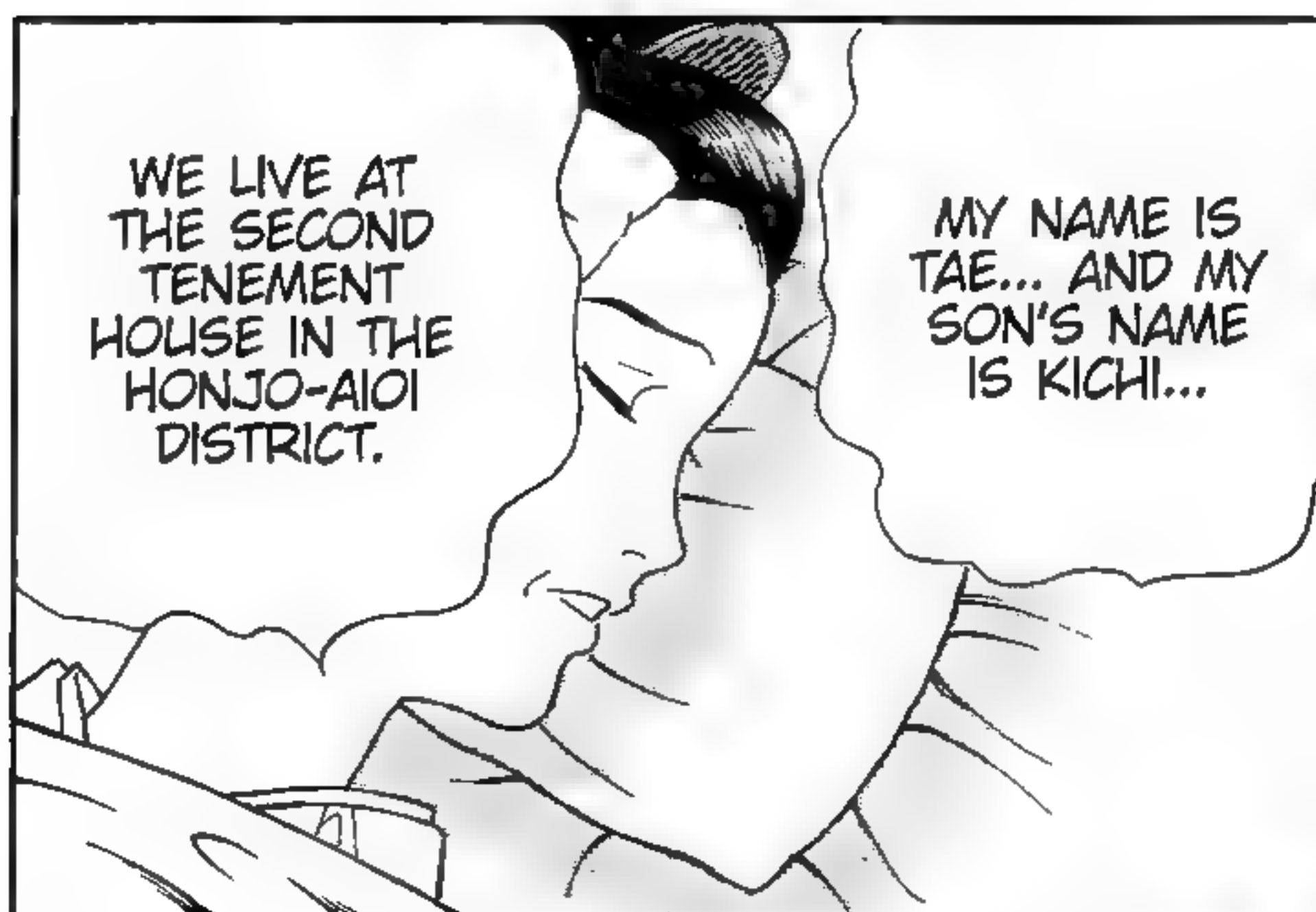




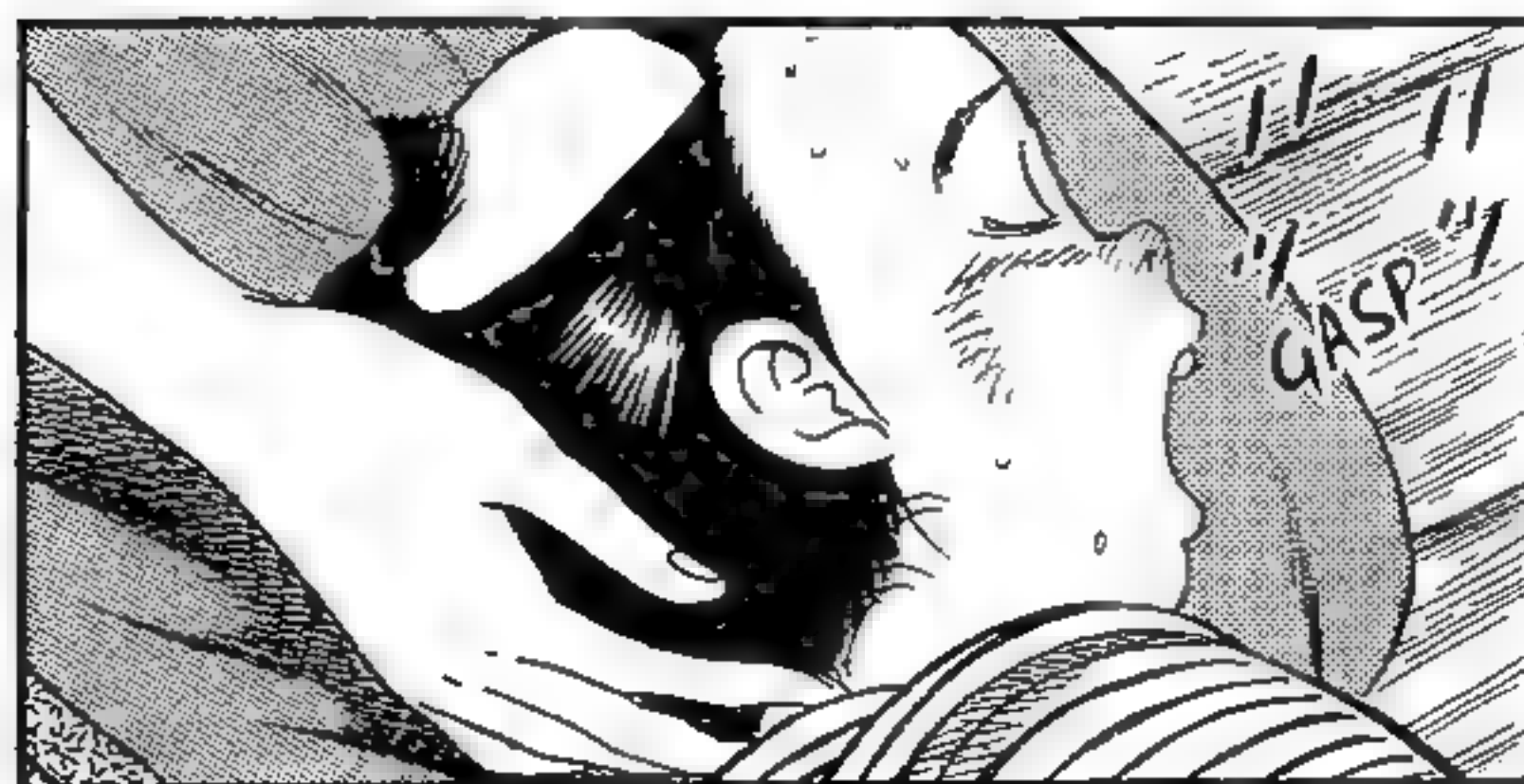
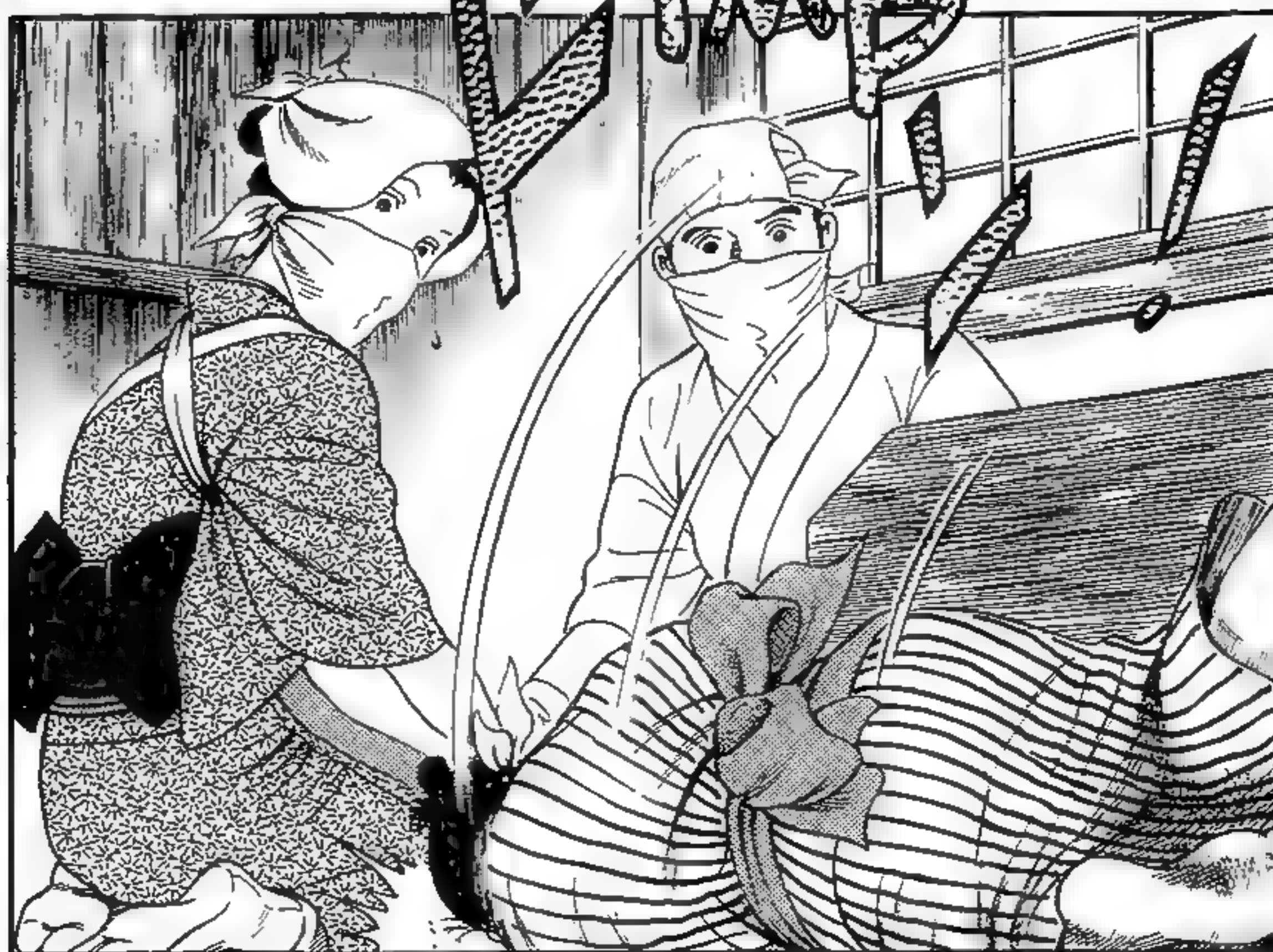
\*THE MEMBRANE THAT LINES ALL BONE STRUCTURES.



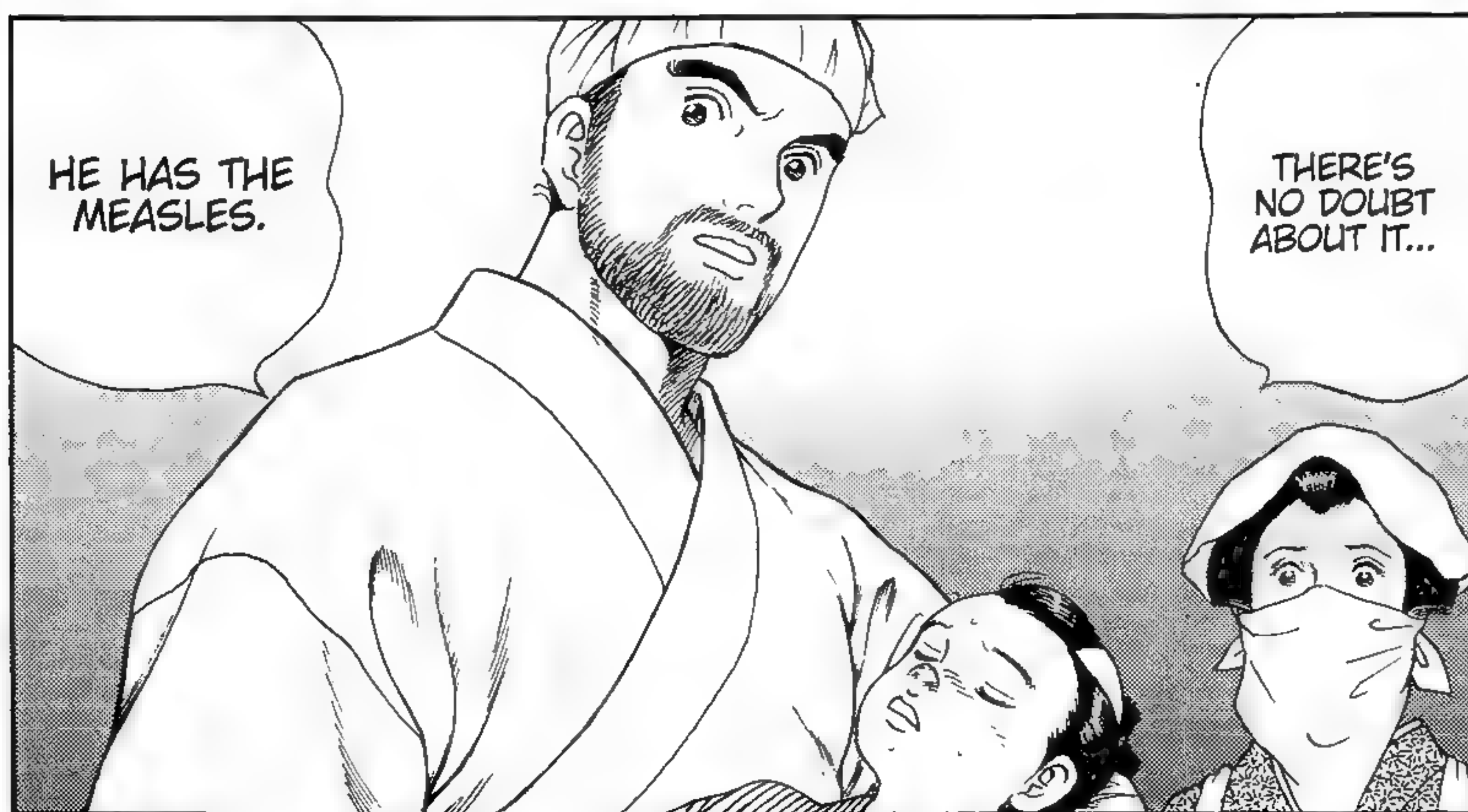
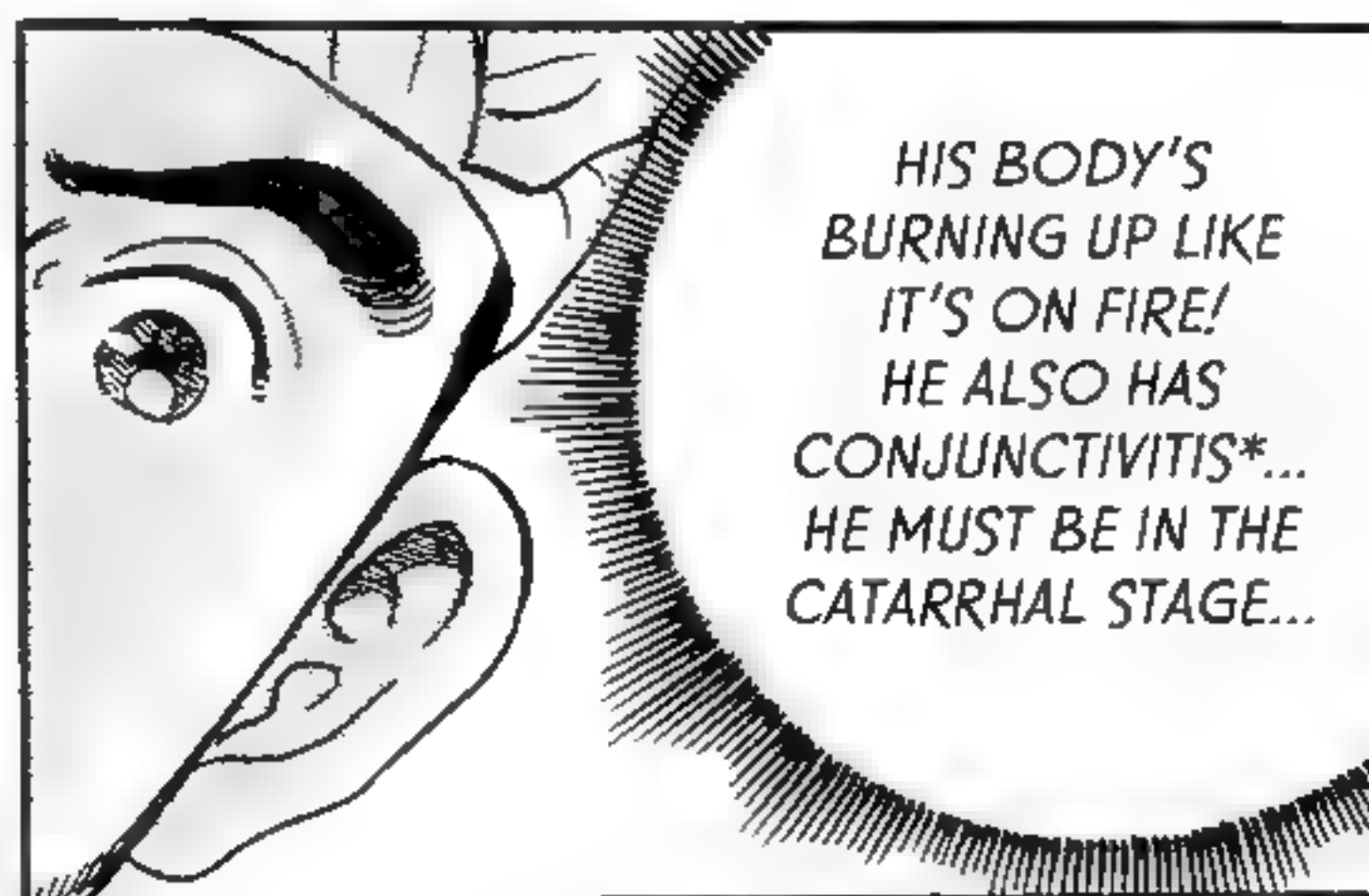
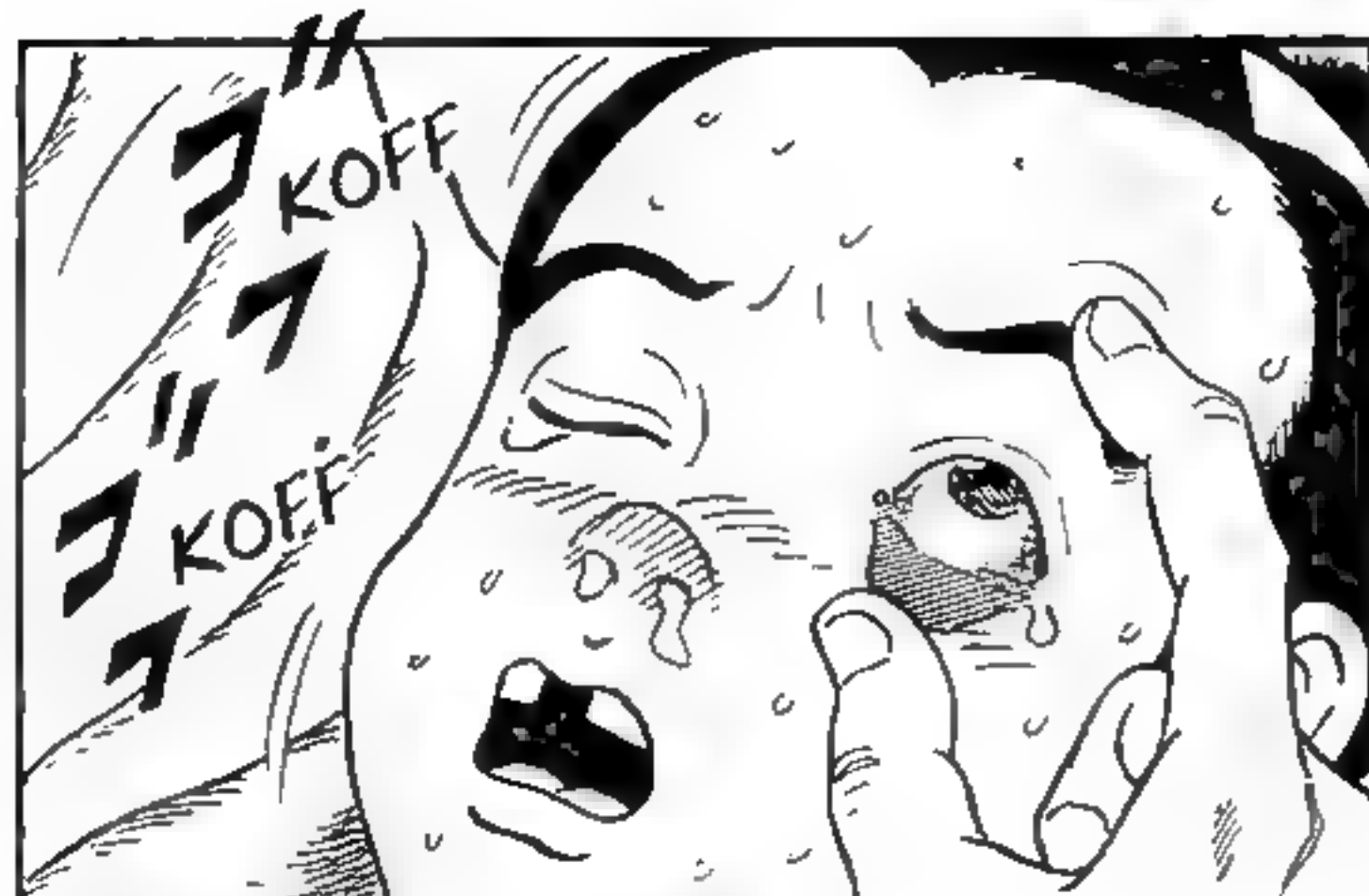




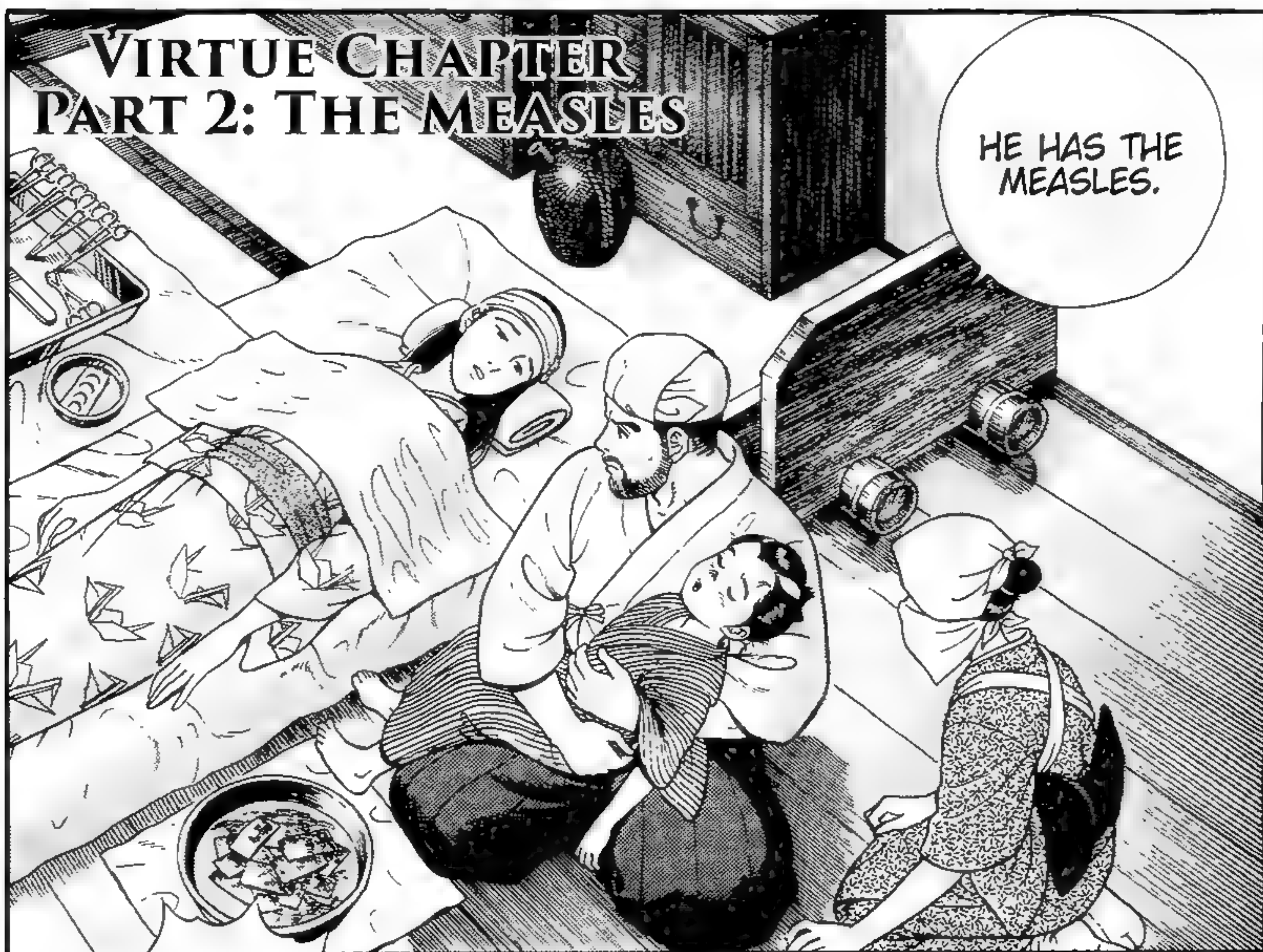




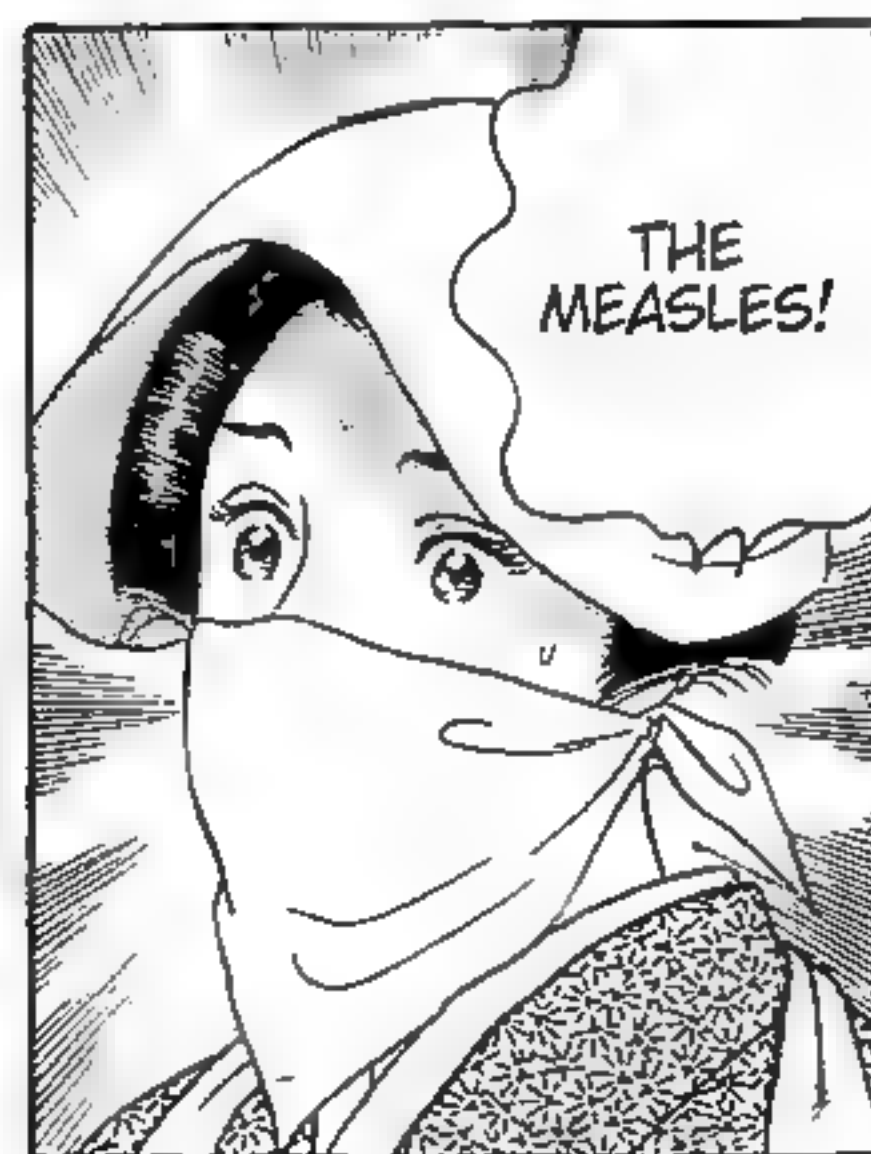




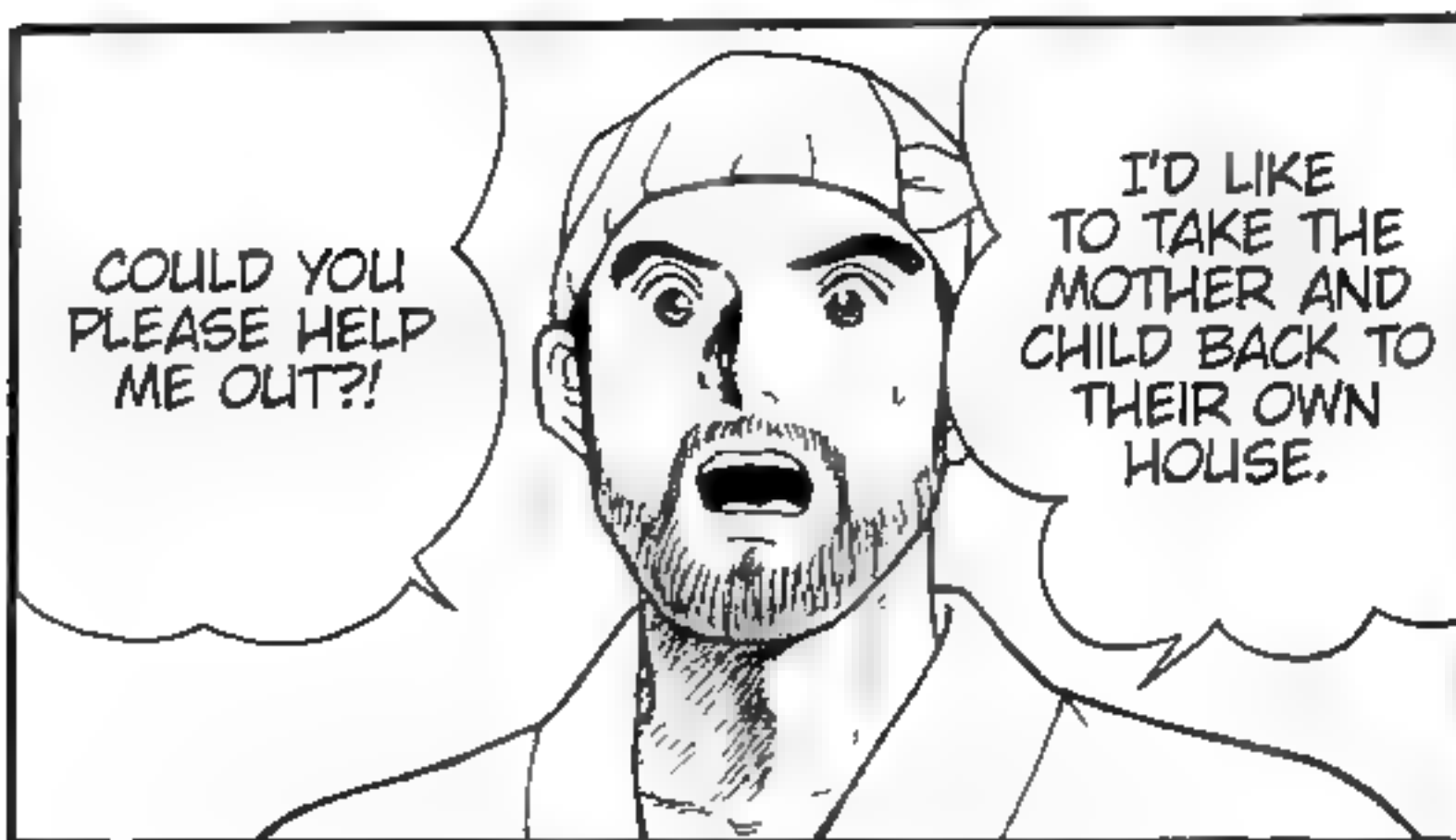












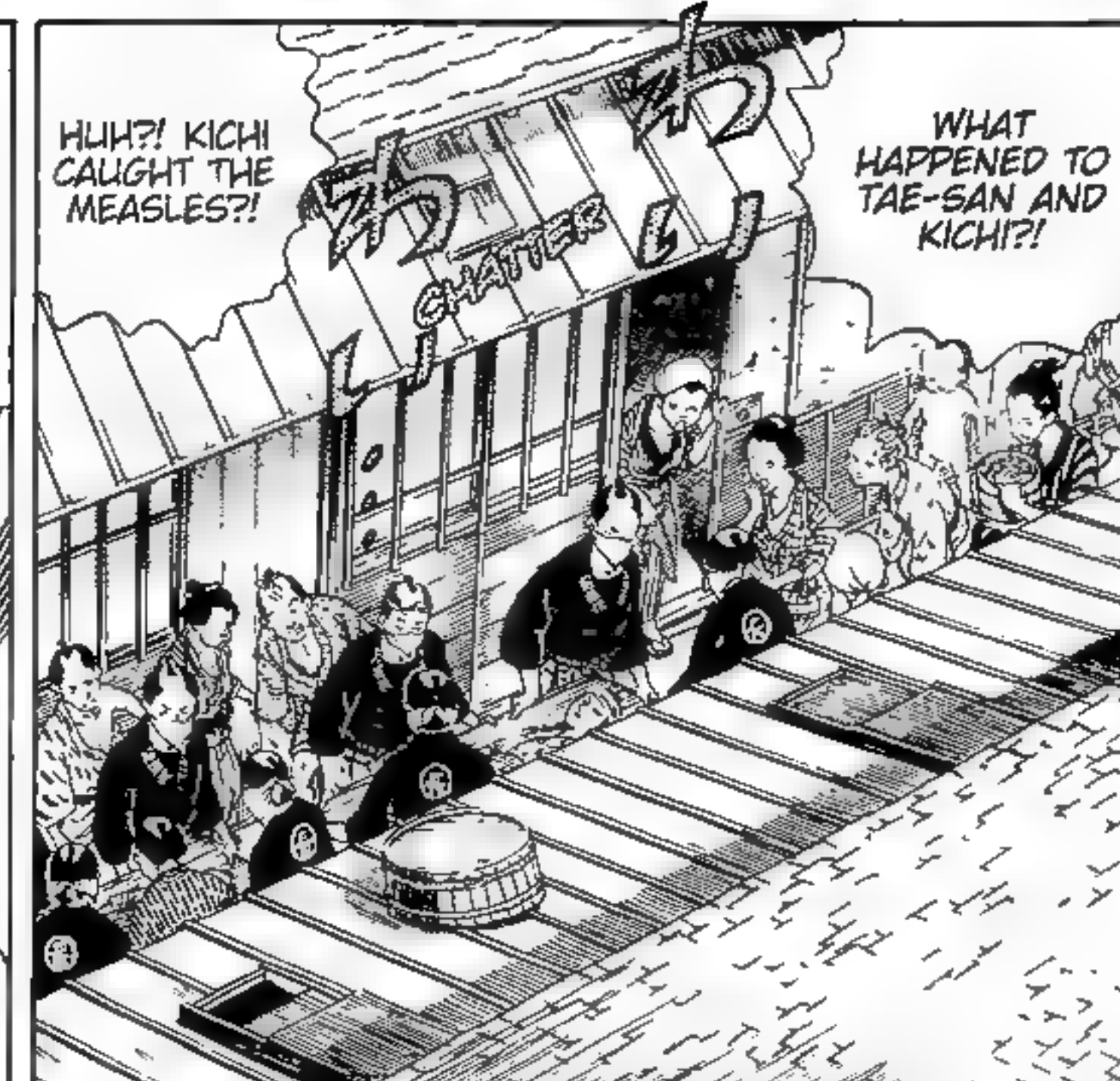
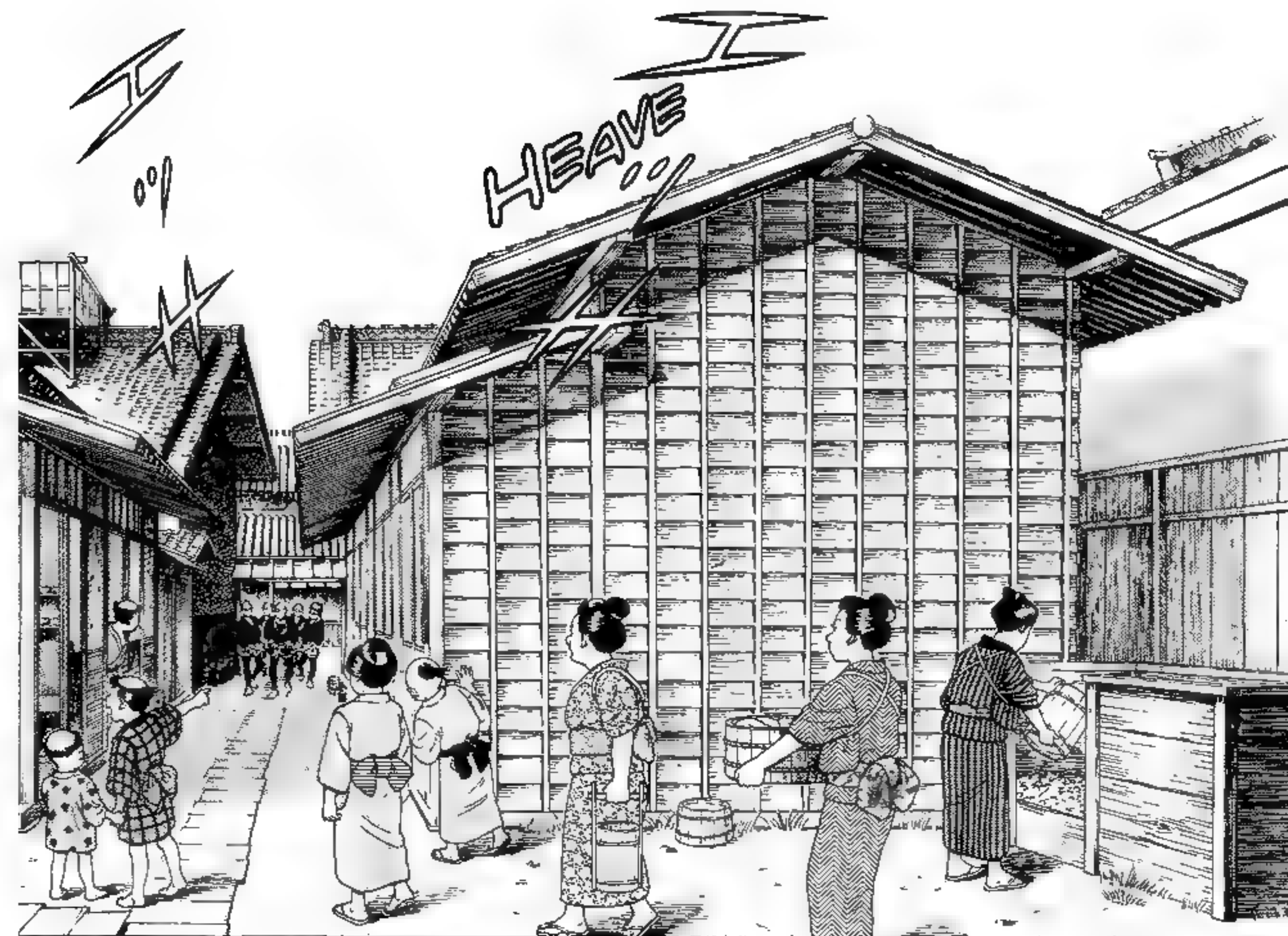




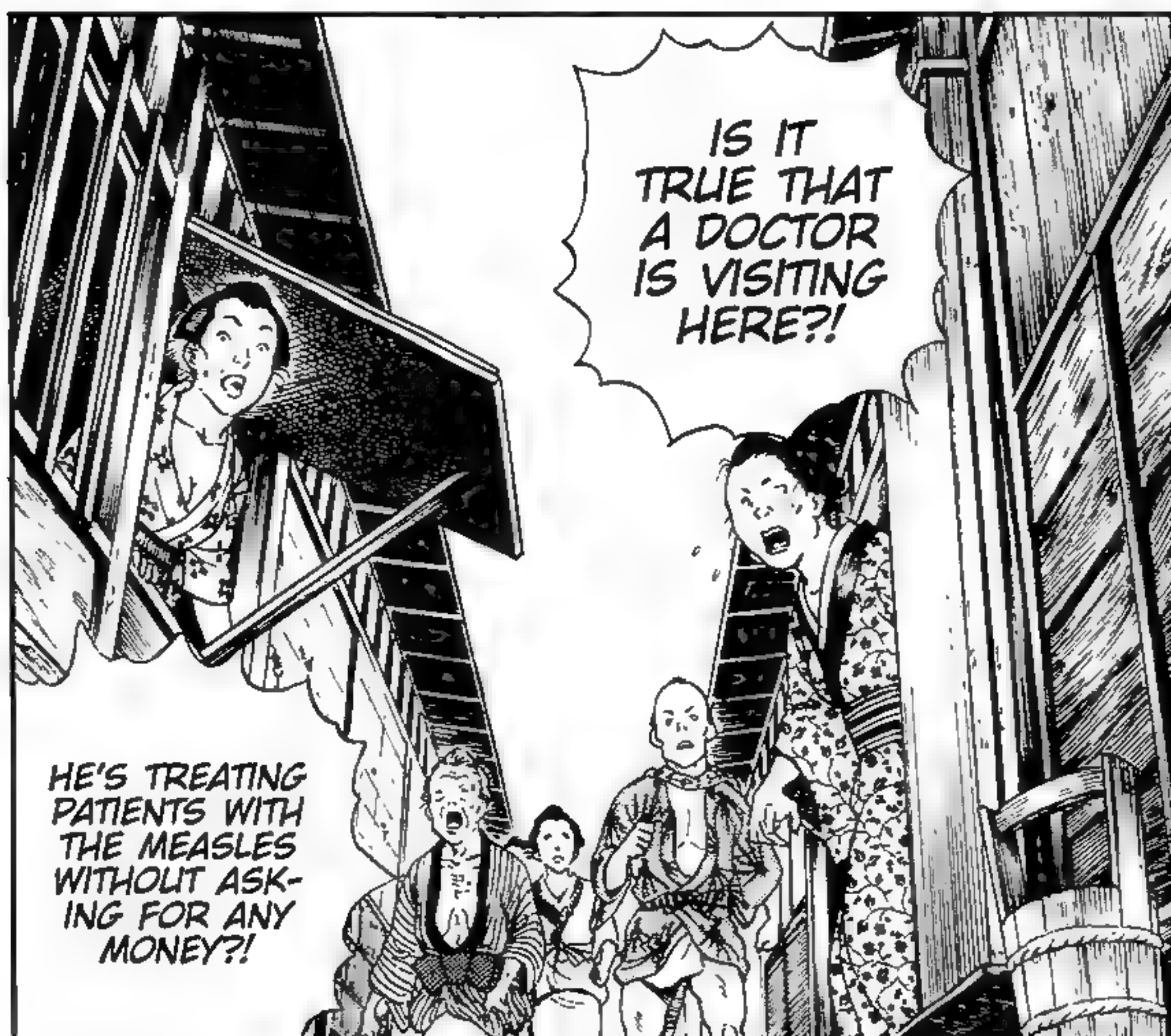
**VIRTUE CHAPTER  
PART 2: THE MEASLES**



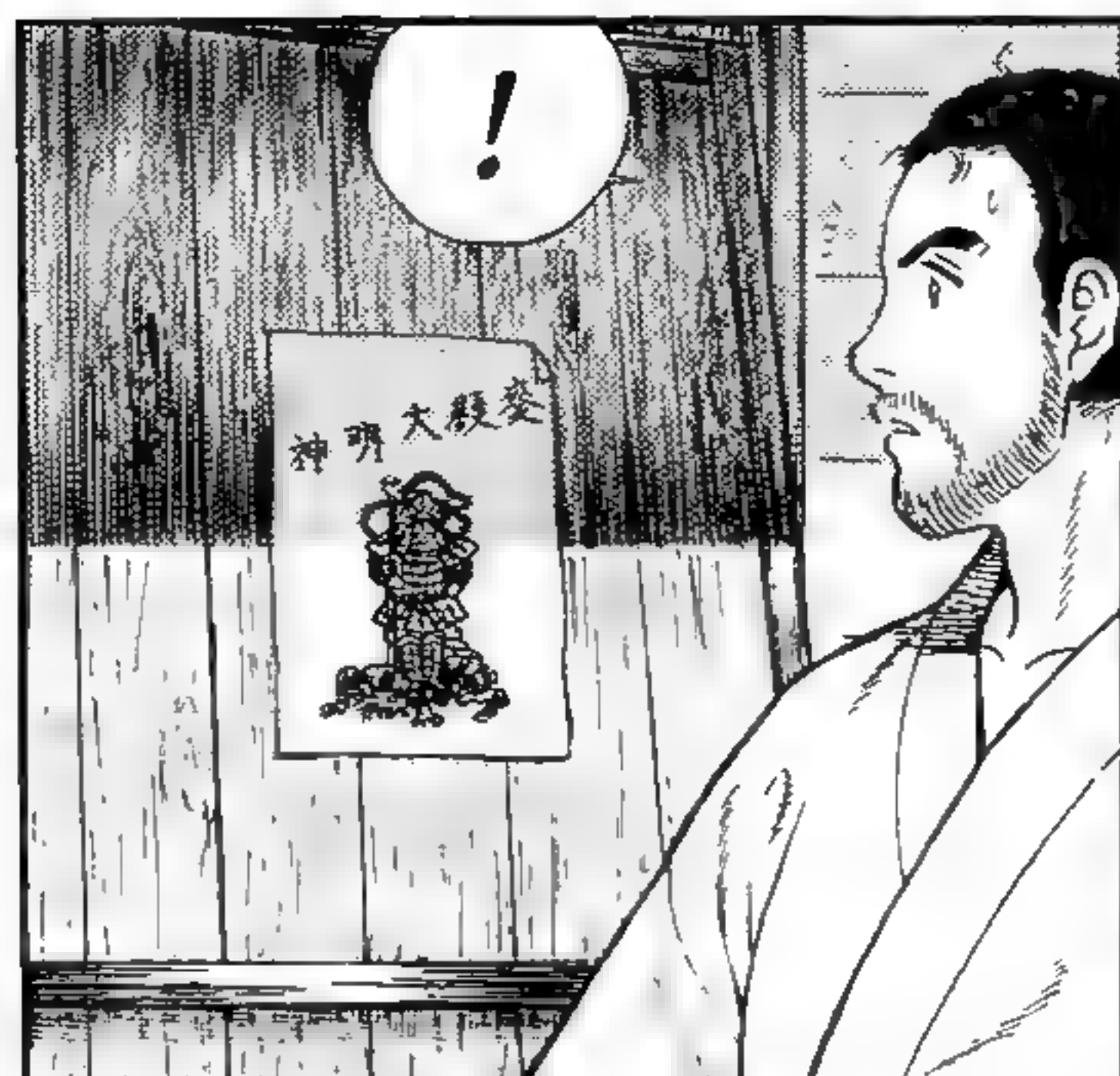


















IF YOU  
REALLY WANT  
TO DRIVE THE  
DISEASE OUT OF  
THIS TENEMENT  
HOUSE, THEN  
PLEASE DO  
AS I SAY!

THIS SORT  
OF THING  
WON'T HEAL  
MEASLES!



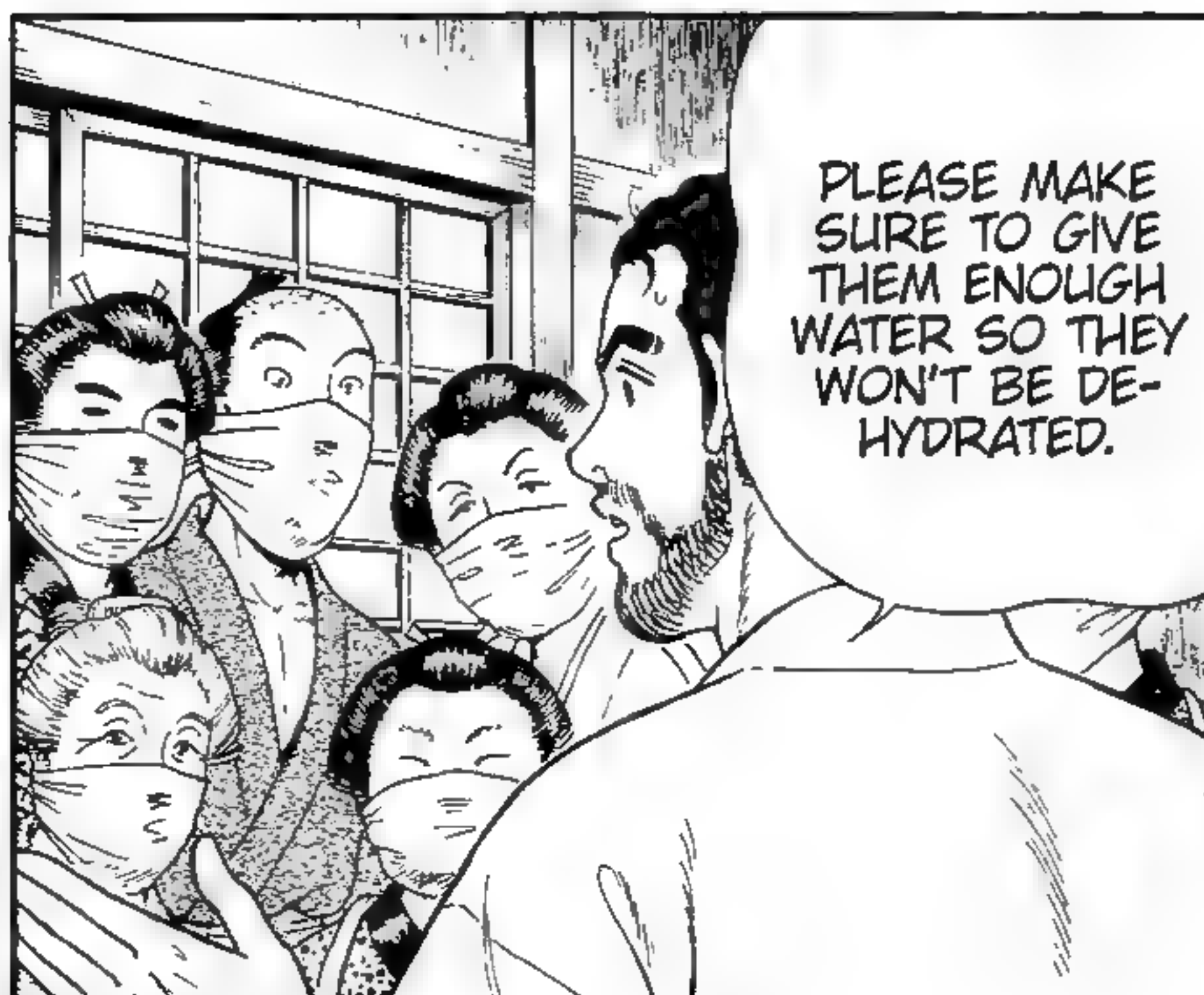








YOU SHOULD ADD HALF A PINCH OF SALT AND A PINCH OF BLACK SUGAR FOR EVERY THREE CUPS OF WATER...



PLEASE MAKE SURE TO GIVE THEM ENOUGH WATER SO THEY WON'T BE DEHYDRATED.



THE UNREFINED SALT AND SUGAR OF THIS ERA SHOULD CONTAIN ENOUGH MINERALS.

GOOD. NOW IT KIND OF TASTES LIKE A SPORT DRINK.



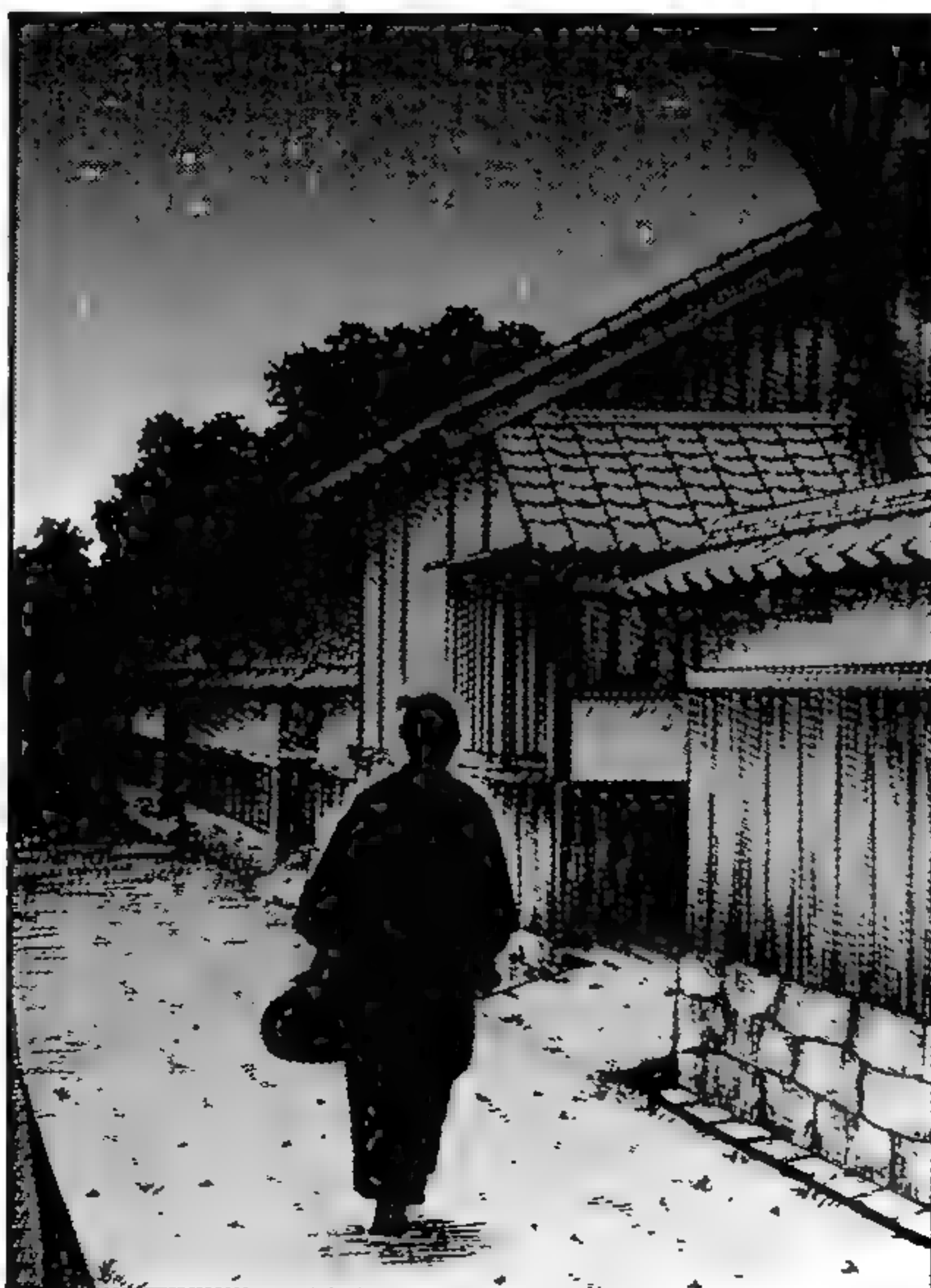
WHILE I'M NOT HERE, PLEASE TAKE TURNS AND CARE FOR THE PATIENTS IN THE WAY I INSTRUCTED YOU DURING BOTH THE DAY AND THE NIGHT.

FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE COMING HERE EVERY DAY.



O... OKAY!





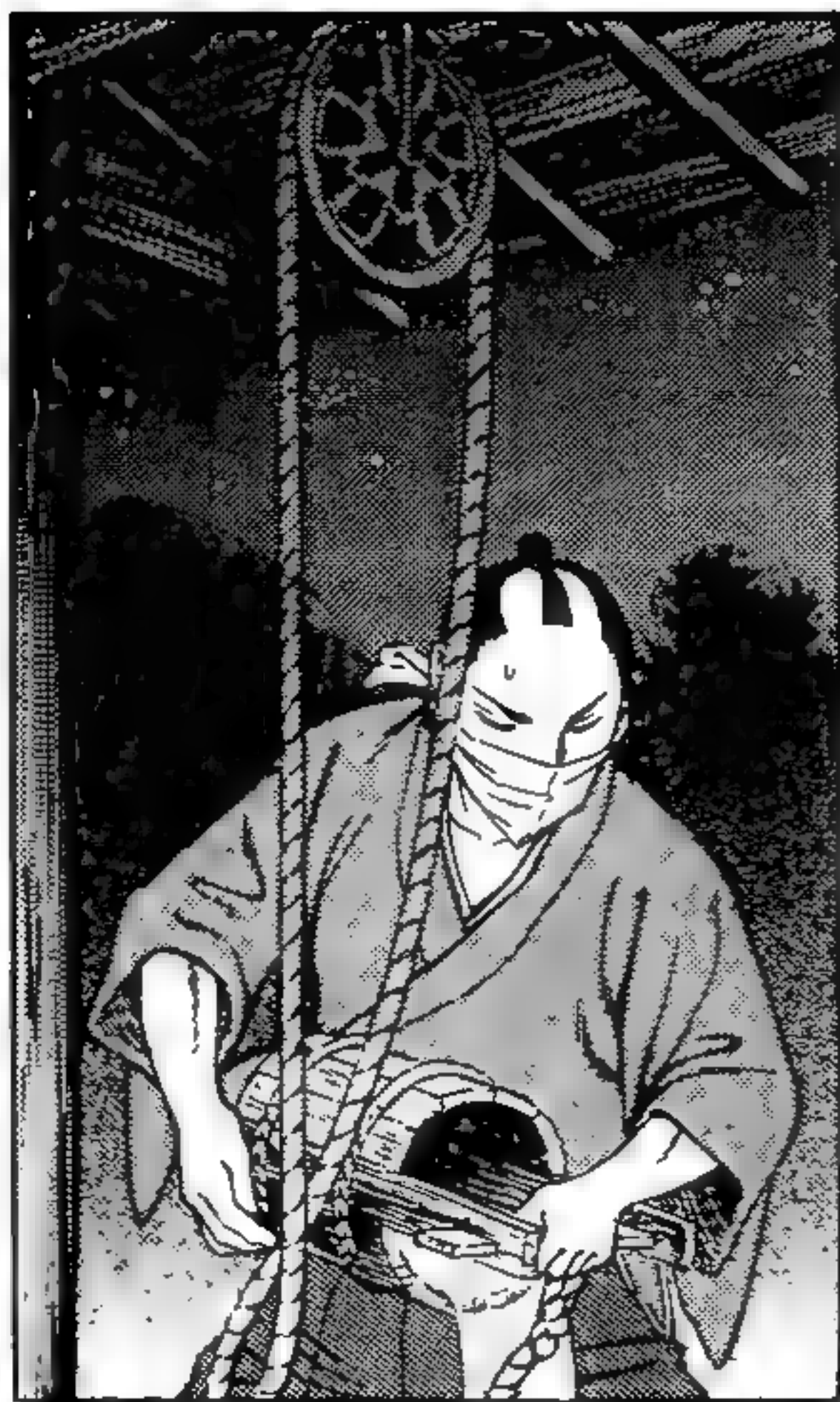




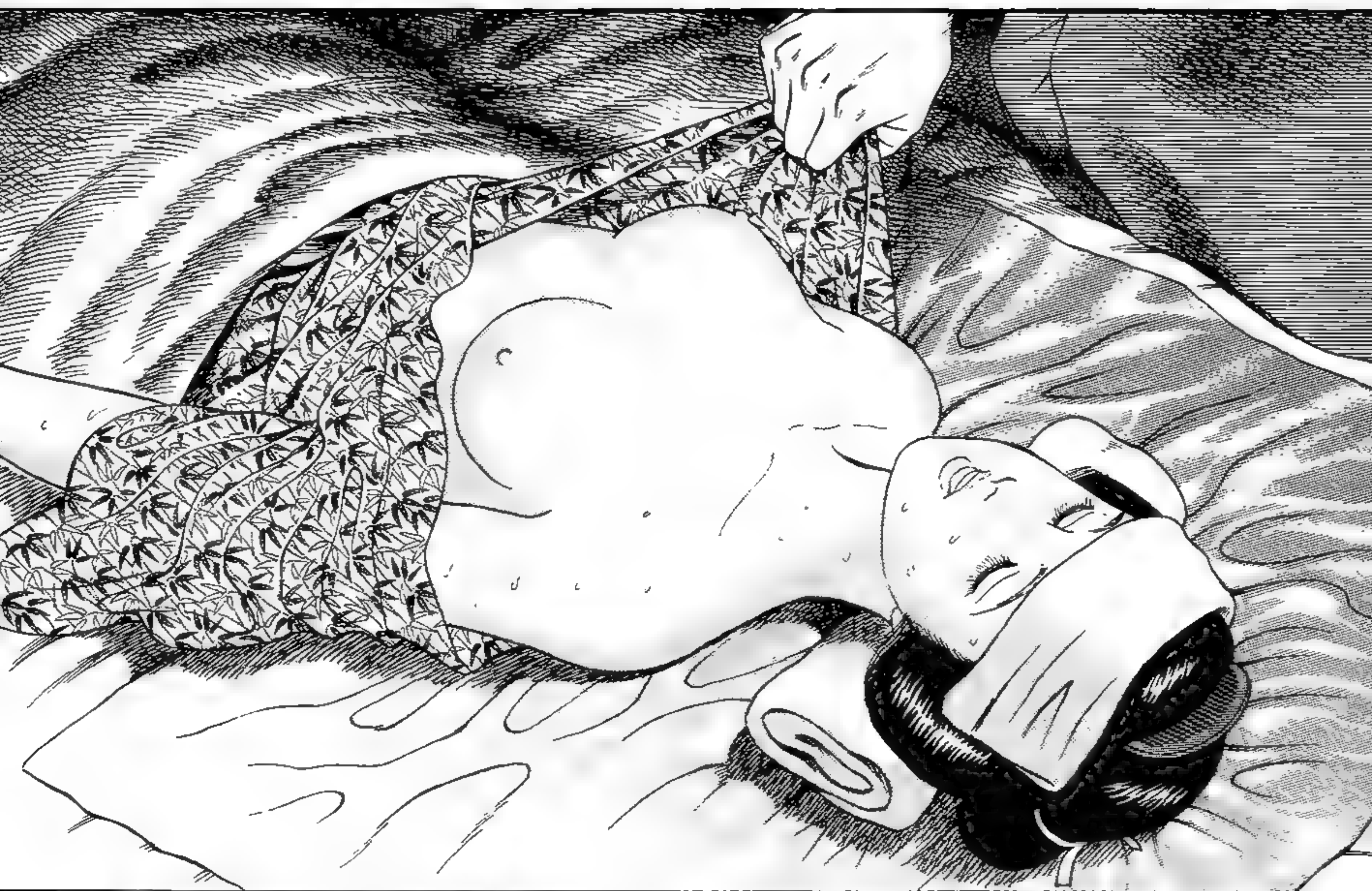








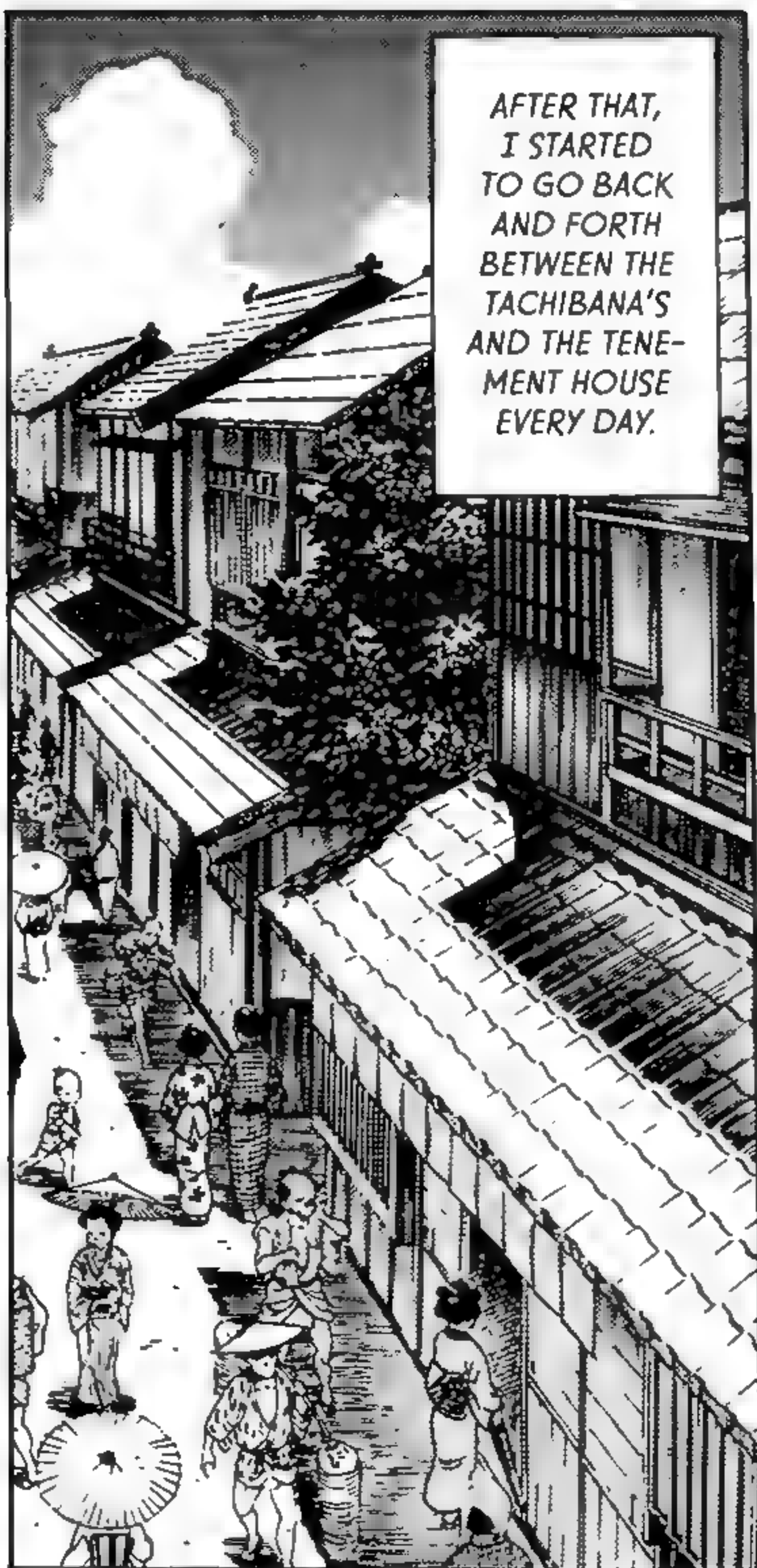












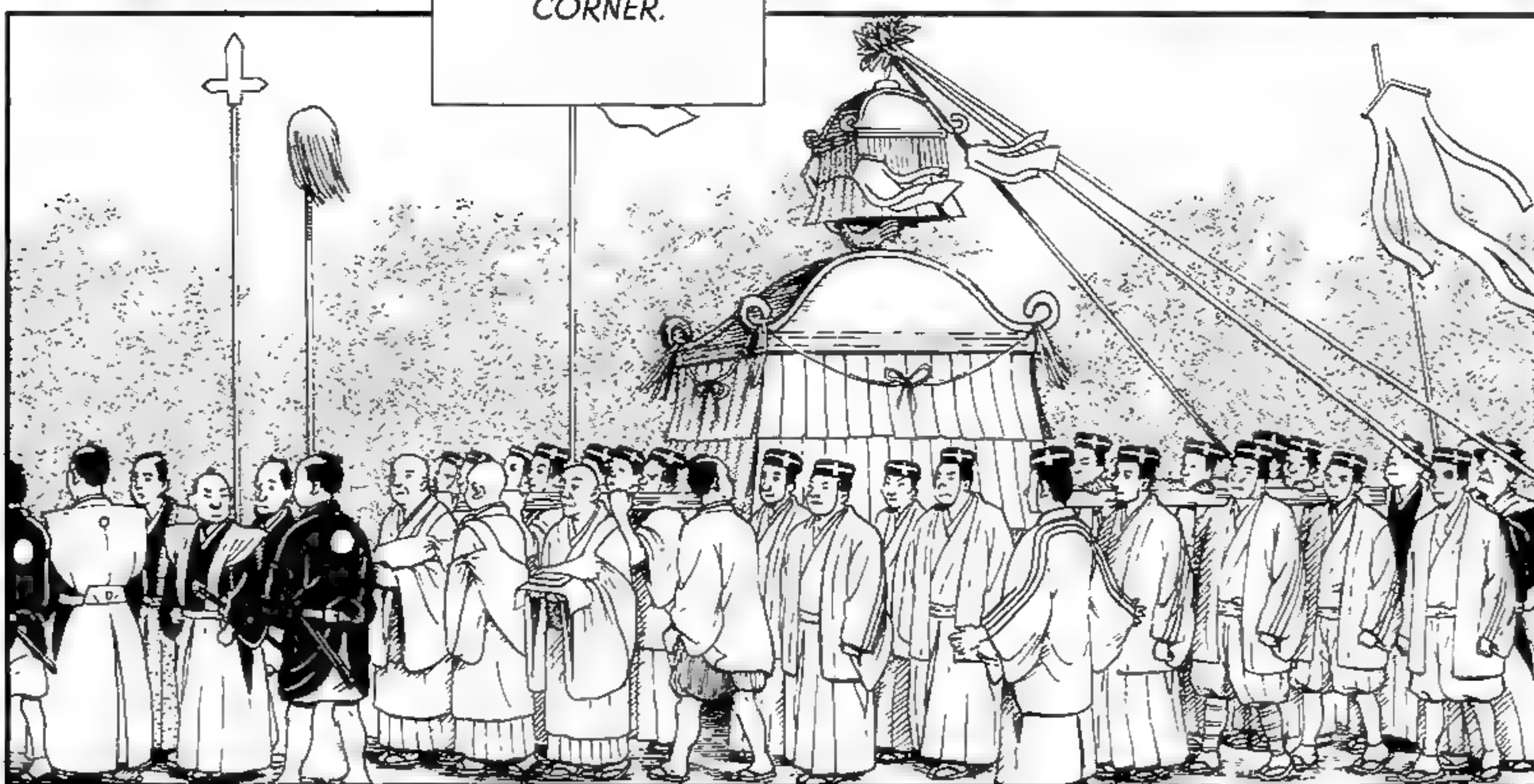
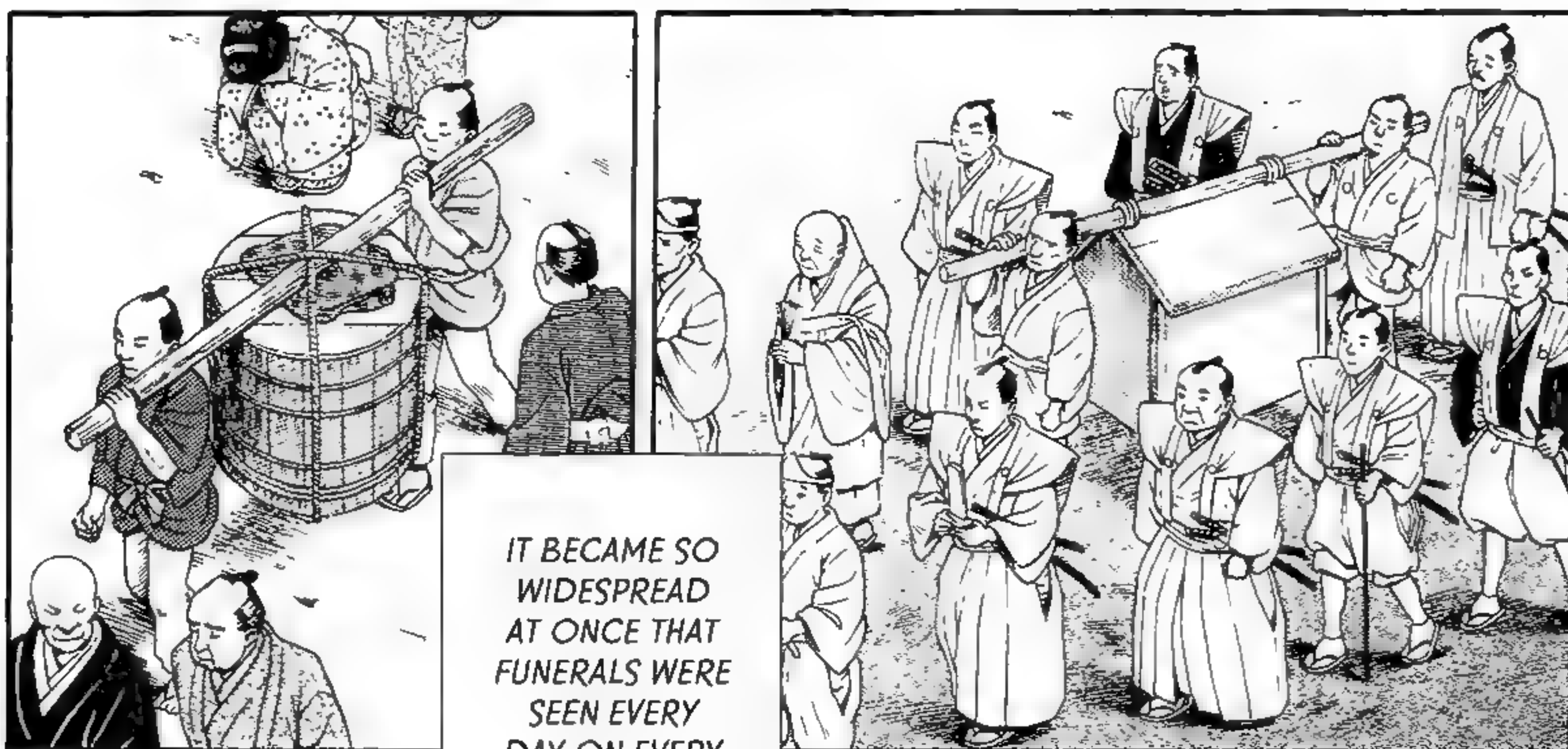
AFTER THAT,  
I STARTED  
TO GO BACK  
AND FORTH  
BETWEEN THE  
TACHIBANA'S  
AND THE TENE-  
MENT HOUSE  
EVERY DAY.



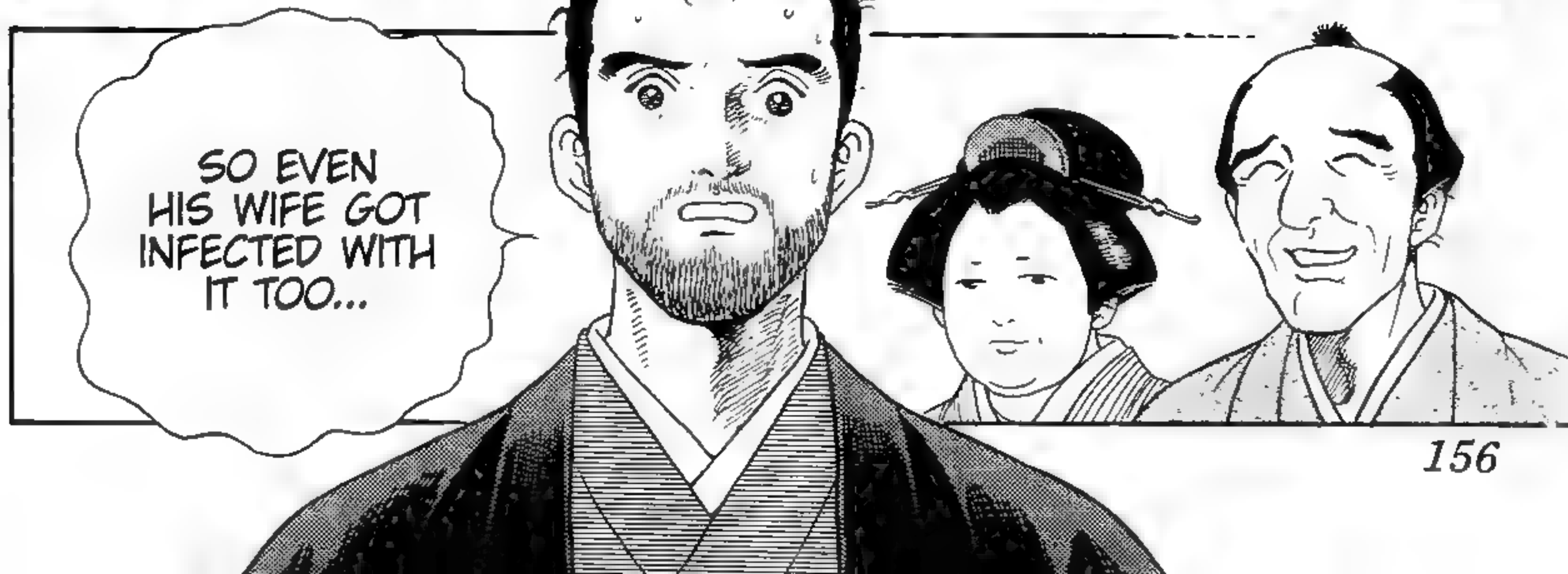
MEANWHILE,  
THE MEASLES  
GREW EVEN  
MORE RAMPANT  
AND PLUNGED  
THE ENTIRETY OF  
EDO INTO AN  
ABYSS OF FEAR.



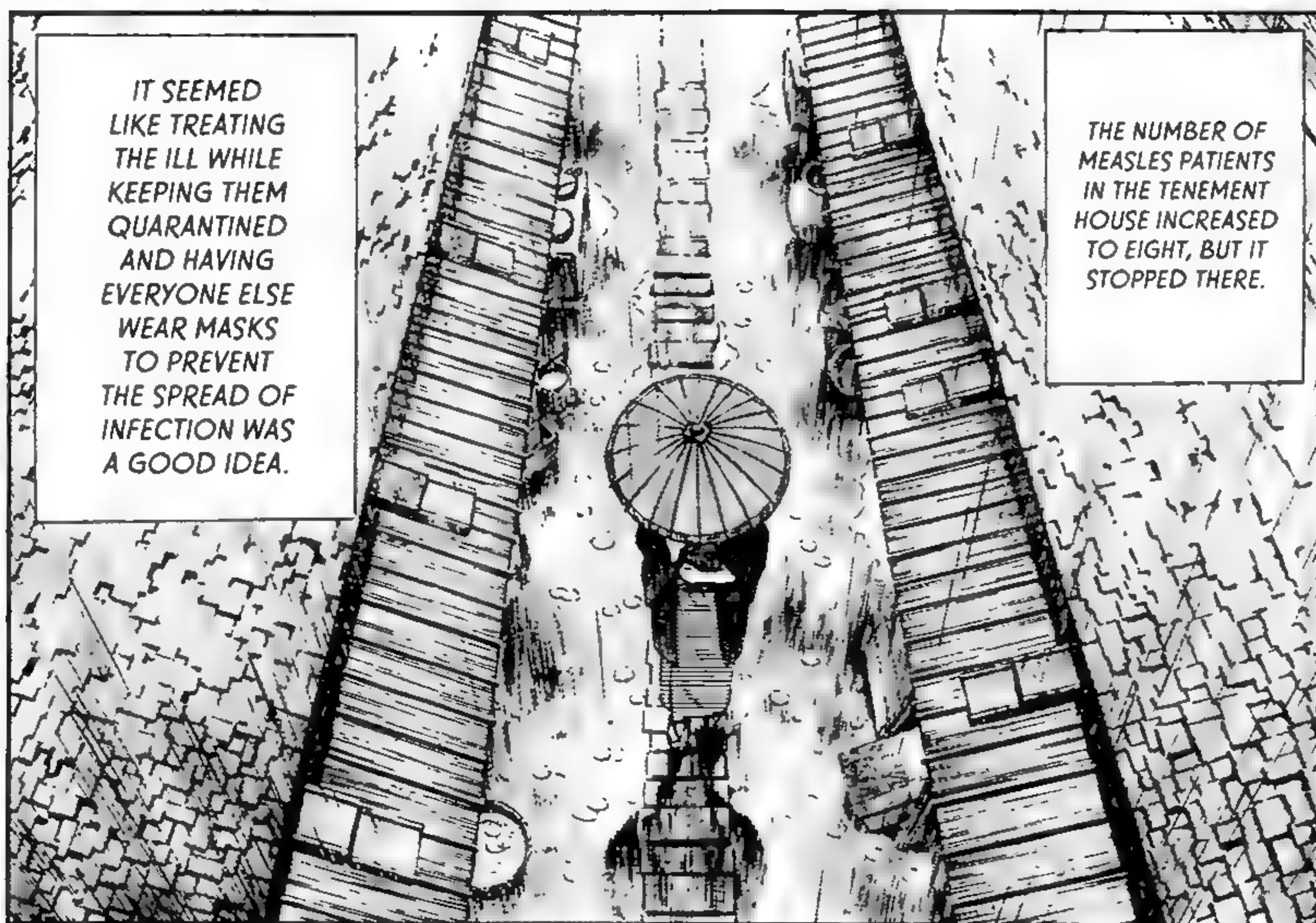












IT SEEMED  
LIKE TREATING  
THE ILL WHILE  
KEEPING THEM  
QUARANTINED  
AND HAVING  
EVERYONE ELSE  
WEAR MASKS  
TO PREVENT  
THE SPREAD OF  
INFECTION WAS  
A GOOD IDEA.

THE NUMBER OF  
MEASLES PATIENTS  
IN THE TENEMENT  
HOUSE INCREASED  
TO EIGHT, BUT IT  
STOPPED THERE.



THE RASH BEGINS  
ON THE NECK OR  
FACE, AND THEN  
SPREAD TOWARDS  
THE HANDS AND FEET  
UNTIL IT FADES AWAY  
AND DISAPPEARS  
WHEN IT'S HEALED.

HEY, KICHI.  
HOW DO YOU  
FEEL?

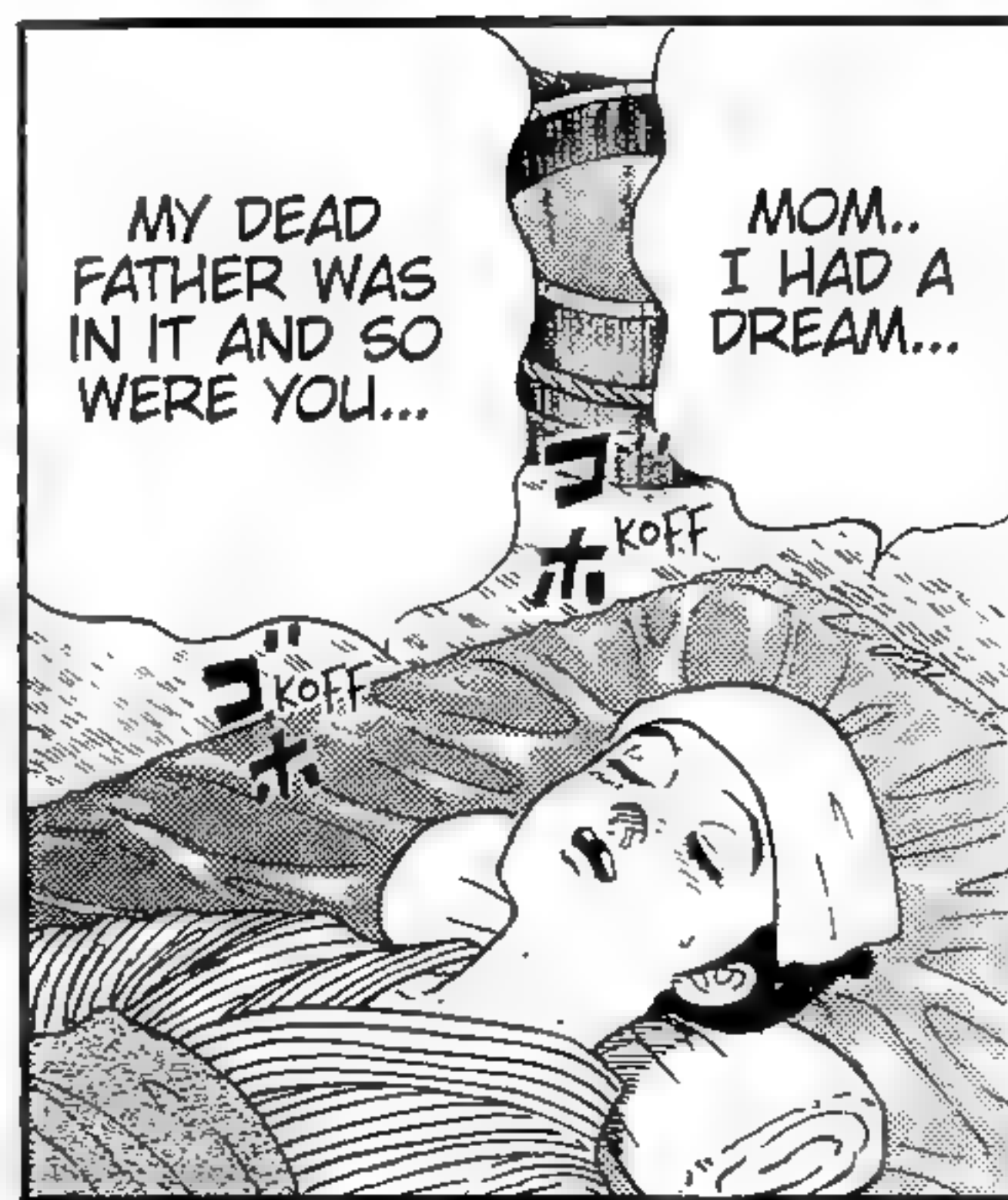


THE INCUBATION  
PERIOD OF THE  
MEASLES IS EIGHT  
TO TWELVE DAYS.  
IT TAKES TWO  
WEEKS ON AVERAGE  
FOR THE RASHES  
TO APPEAR.





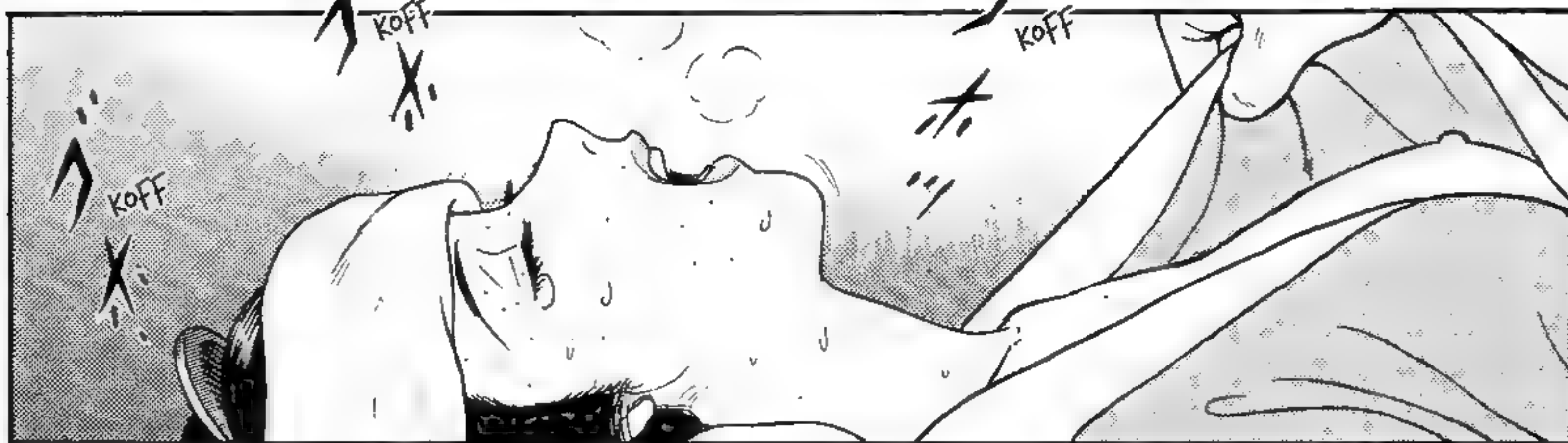








THE  
TACHI-  
BANA  
HOUSE



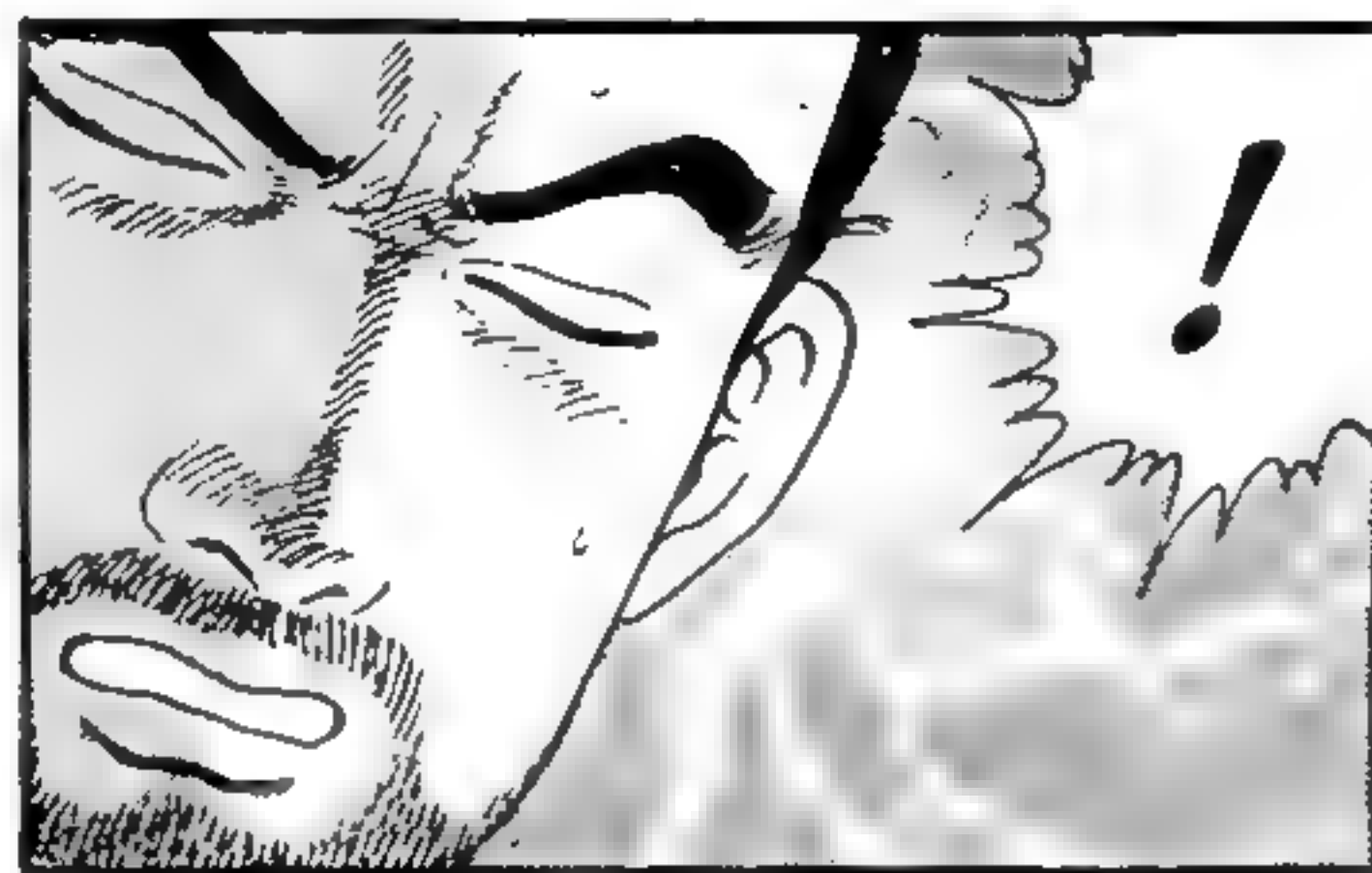
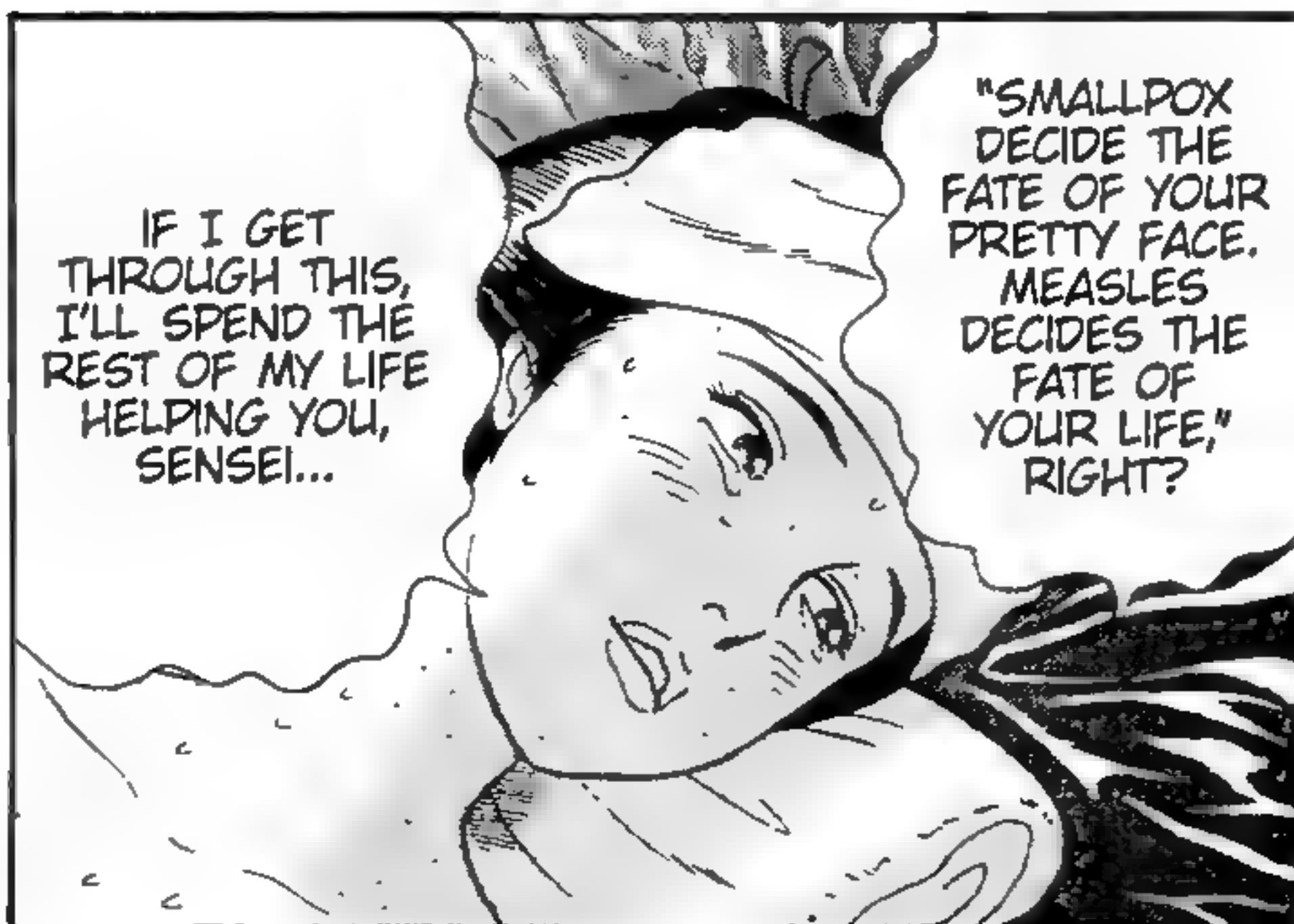
DON'T WORRY.  
UNLIKE SMALLPOX,  
THE RASHES FROM  
MEASLES DISAPPEAR  
COMPLETELY WHEN  
IT'S HEALED.



MINAKATA-SENSEI...  
I MUST BE COVERED  
ALL OVER WITH THESE  
TERRIBLE RASHES



Ha ha ha  
ははは...







PLEASE  
GO GET  
BROTHER  
RIGHT  
AWAY!

MOTHER,  
MINAKATA-  
SENSEI HAS  
FAINTED!

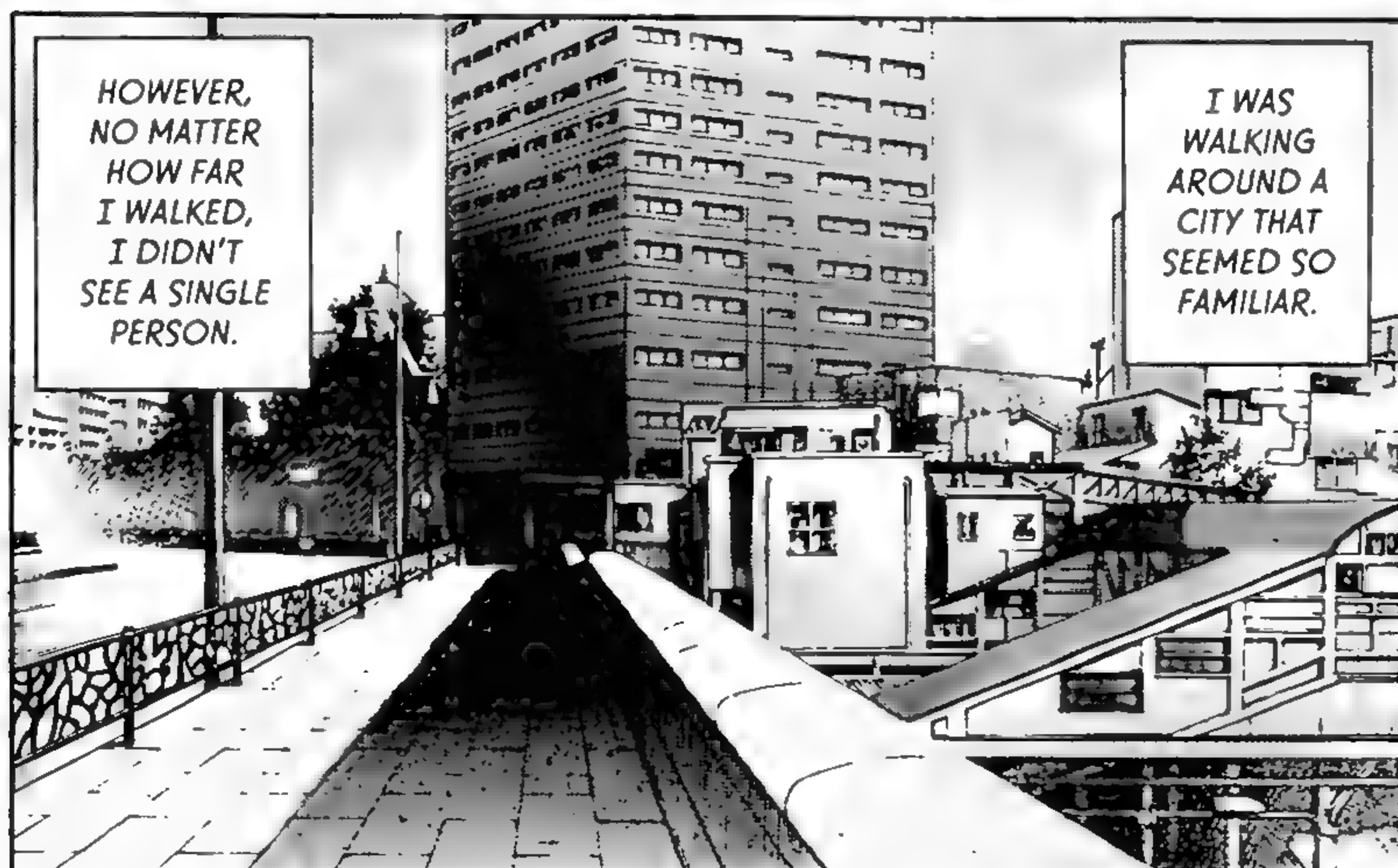


W-WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?!

M-MINA-  
KATA-  
SAMA?!



I HAD A  
DREAM...



HOWEVER,  
NO MATTER  
HOW FAR  
I WALKED,  
I DIDN'T  
SEE A SINGLE  
PERSON.

I WAS  
WALKING  
AROUND A  
CITY THAT  
SEEMED SO  
FAMILIAR.





PERHAPS I,  
THE ONE WHO  
FELL THROUGH A  
GAP IN TIME AND  
GOT STRANDED,  
DON'T BELONG  
ANYWHERE  
ANYMORE.



OR MAYBE  
I'M THE  
ONE WHO  
ISN'T ALIVE  
THERE ANY-  
MORE.

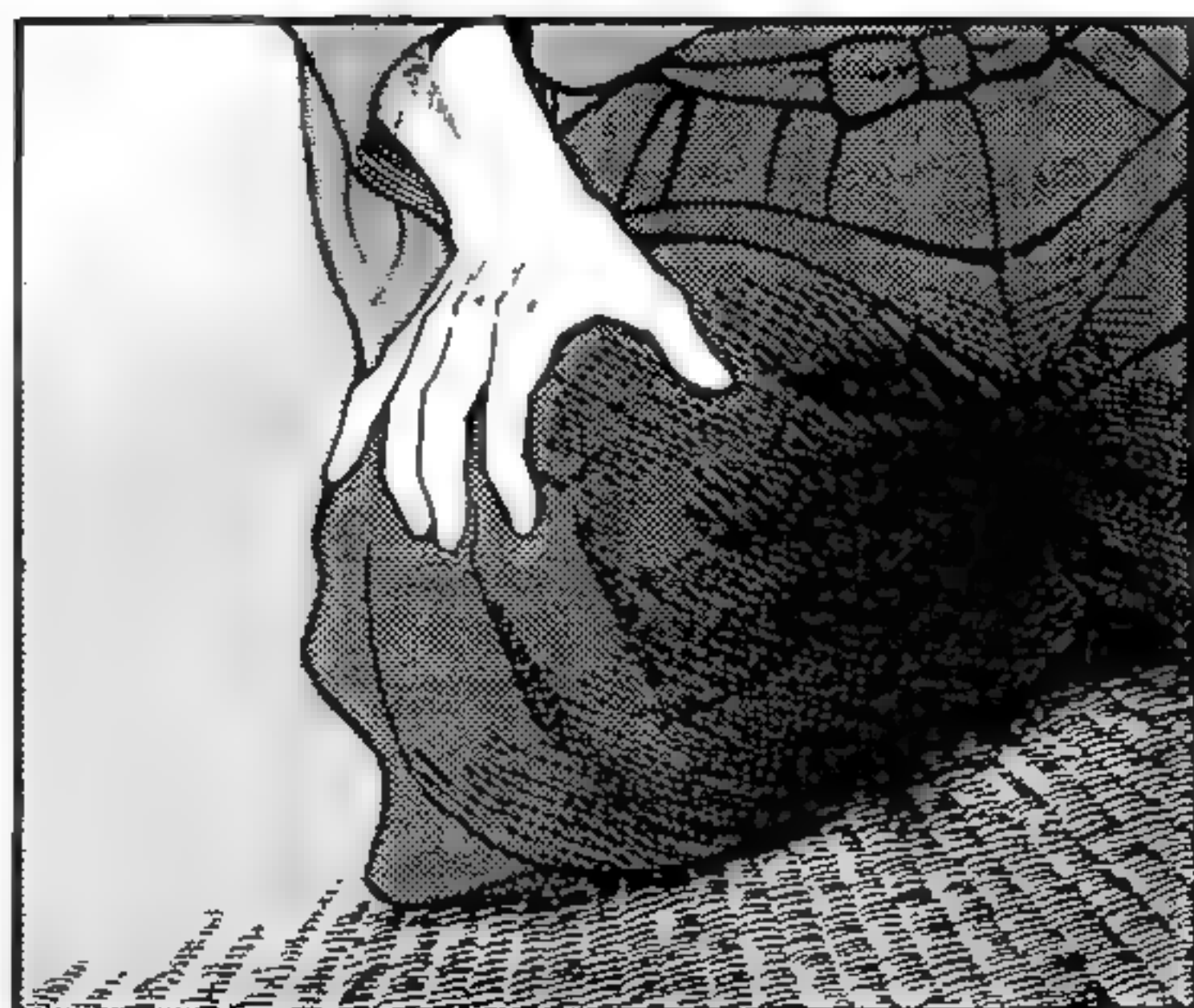
I SEE.  
NOBODY  
FROM 138  
YEARS AGO  
IS ALIVE IN  
THE YEAR  
2000.



HUH?!



MINAKATA-  
SENSEI, ARE  
YOU AWAKE?







A FULL DAY?!



YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR ALMOST A FULL DAY.

YES, YOU DID. IT'S NOT TOO SURPRISING THOUGH. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS WITH BARELY ANY SLEEP.



FALL ASLEEP?

DID I...



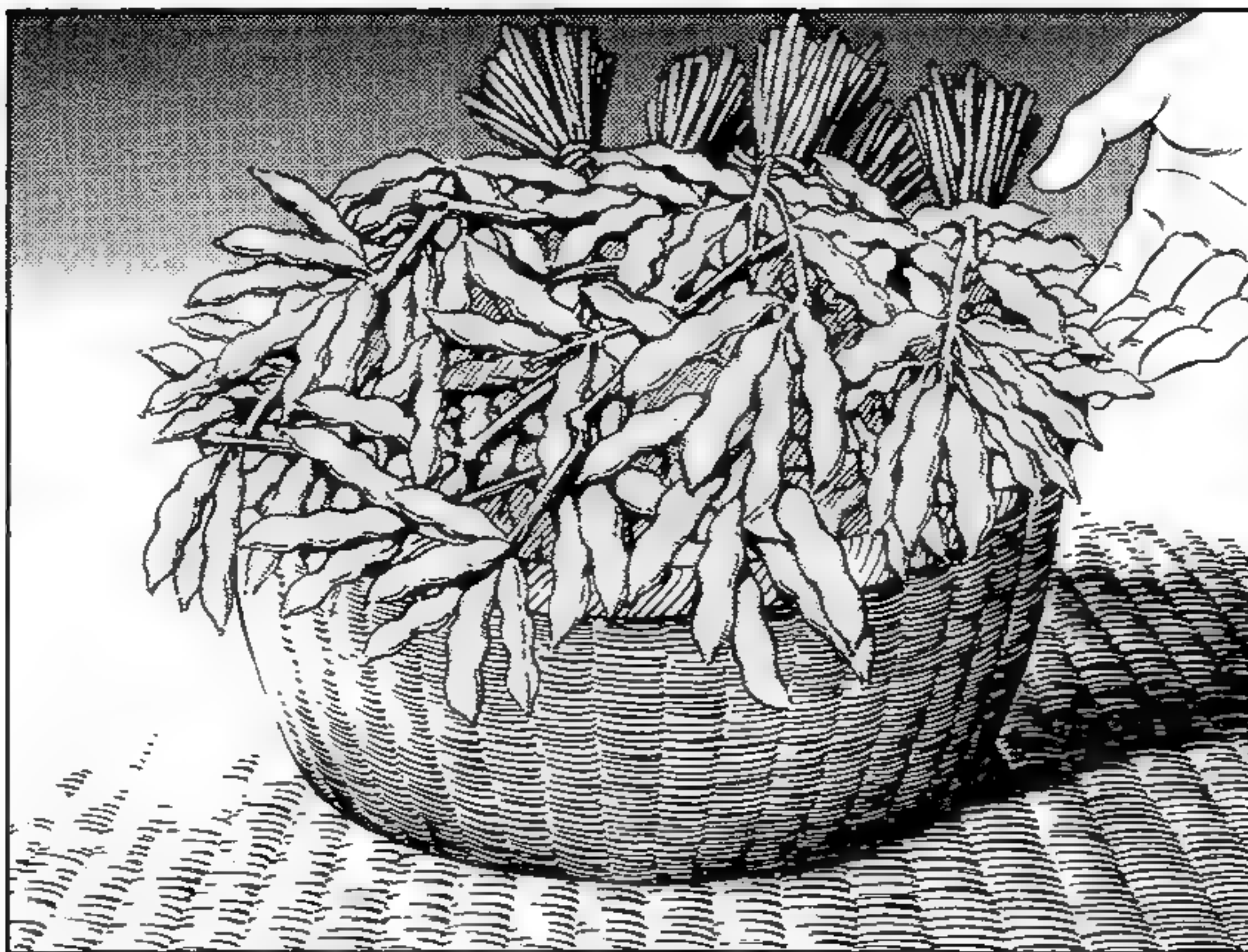
PLEASE DON'T WORRY. SAKI HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.



I'M AWARE THAT IT'S AN ENORMOUS TASK, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WE CAN COUNT ON!

NOT ONLY IS MY SISTER'S LIFE IN YOUR CARE, BUT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE TENEMENT HOUSE IN THE HONJO AIOI DISTRICT ARE ALSO IN YOUR HANDS...

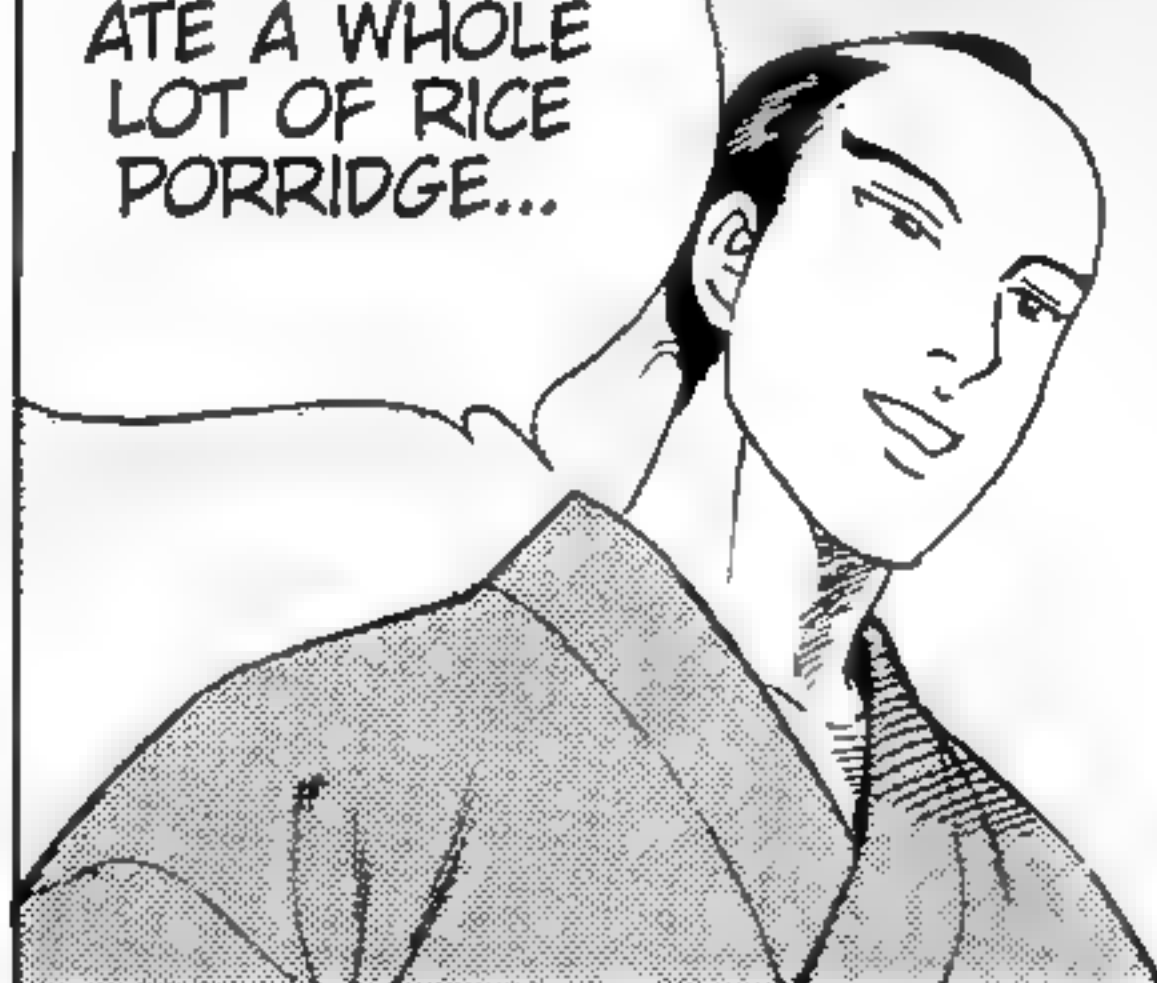




BY THE WAY,  
A LADY CAME  
HERE AND  
BROUGHT  
THESE FOR  
YOU JUST  
NOW...



AND THANKS  
TO THAT, HE  
ATE A WHOLE  
LOT OF RICE  
PORRIDGE...



YES. SHE  
ASKED ME  
TO TELL YOU  
THAT HER  
SON'S FEVER  
FINALLY CAME  
DOWN THIS  
AFTERNOON...

...FROM  
TAE-SAN?



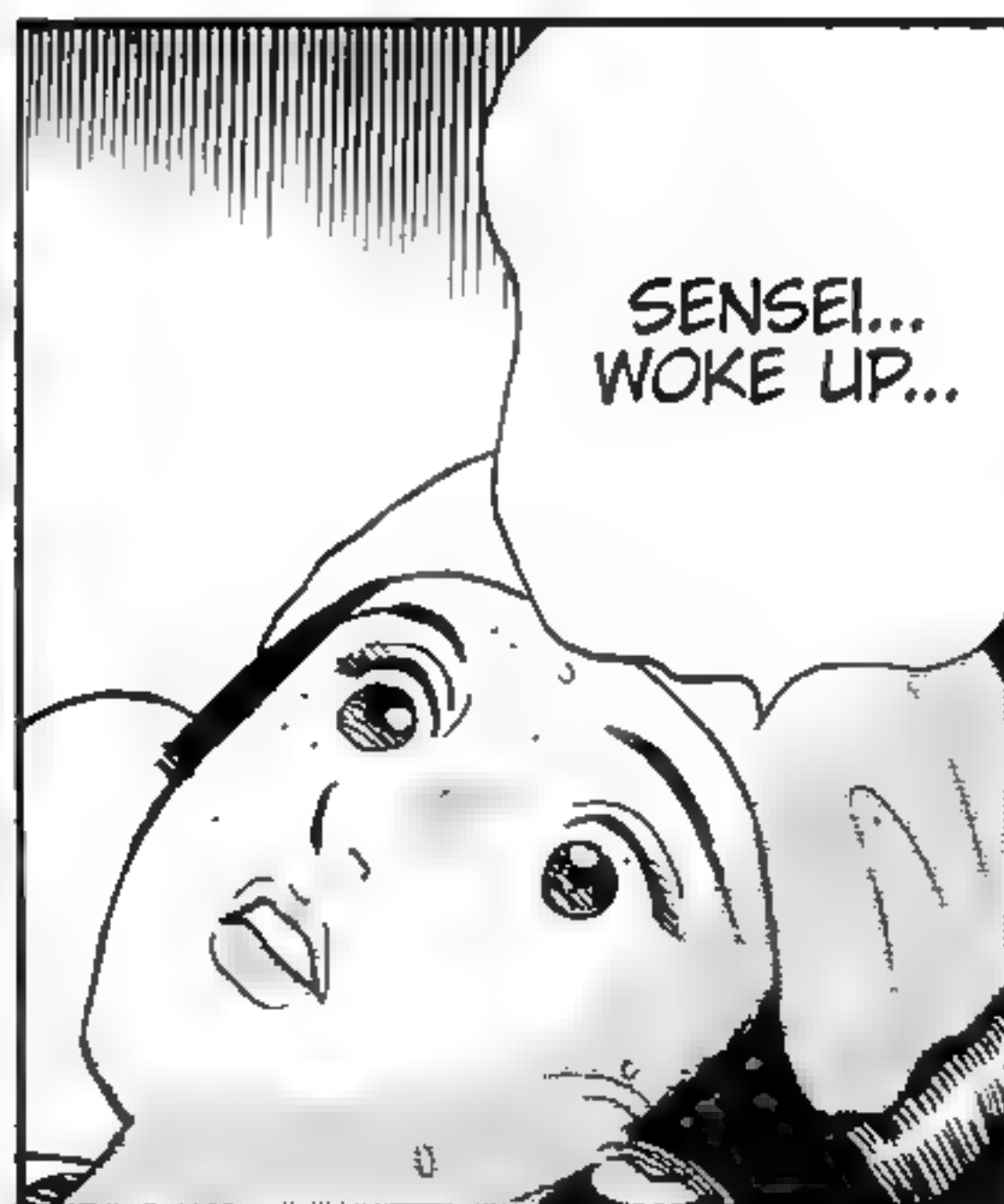
BOILED  
EDAMAME...



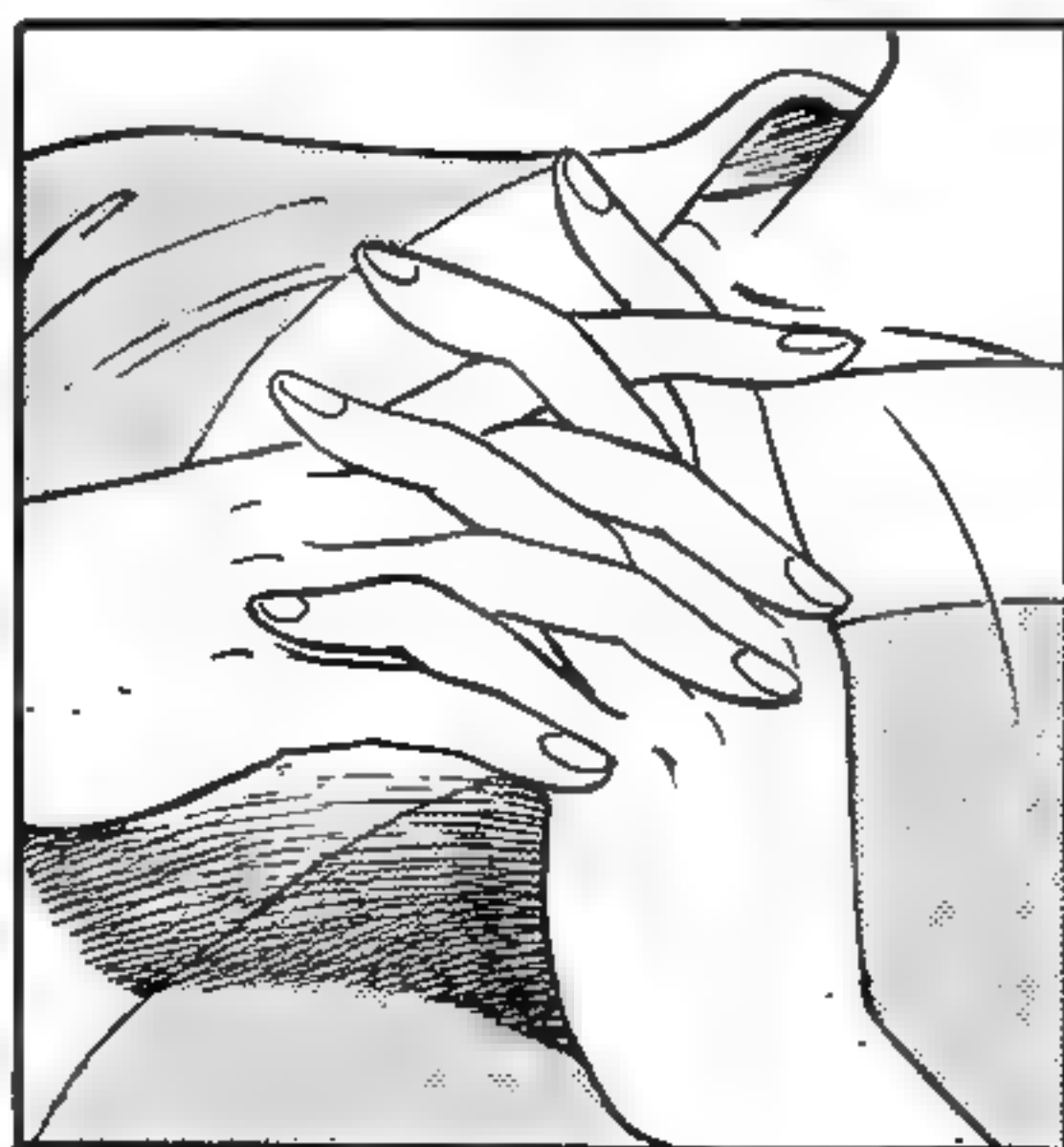




THANK  
GOODNESS...



SENSEI...  
WOKE UP...



I WILL  
DEFINITELY  
BEAT THE  
MEASLES!

OKAY!  
JUST A BIT  
MORE!





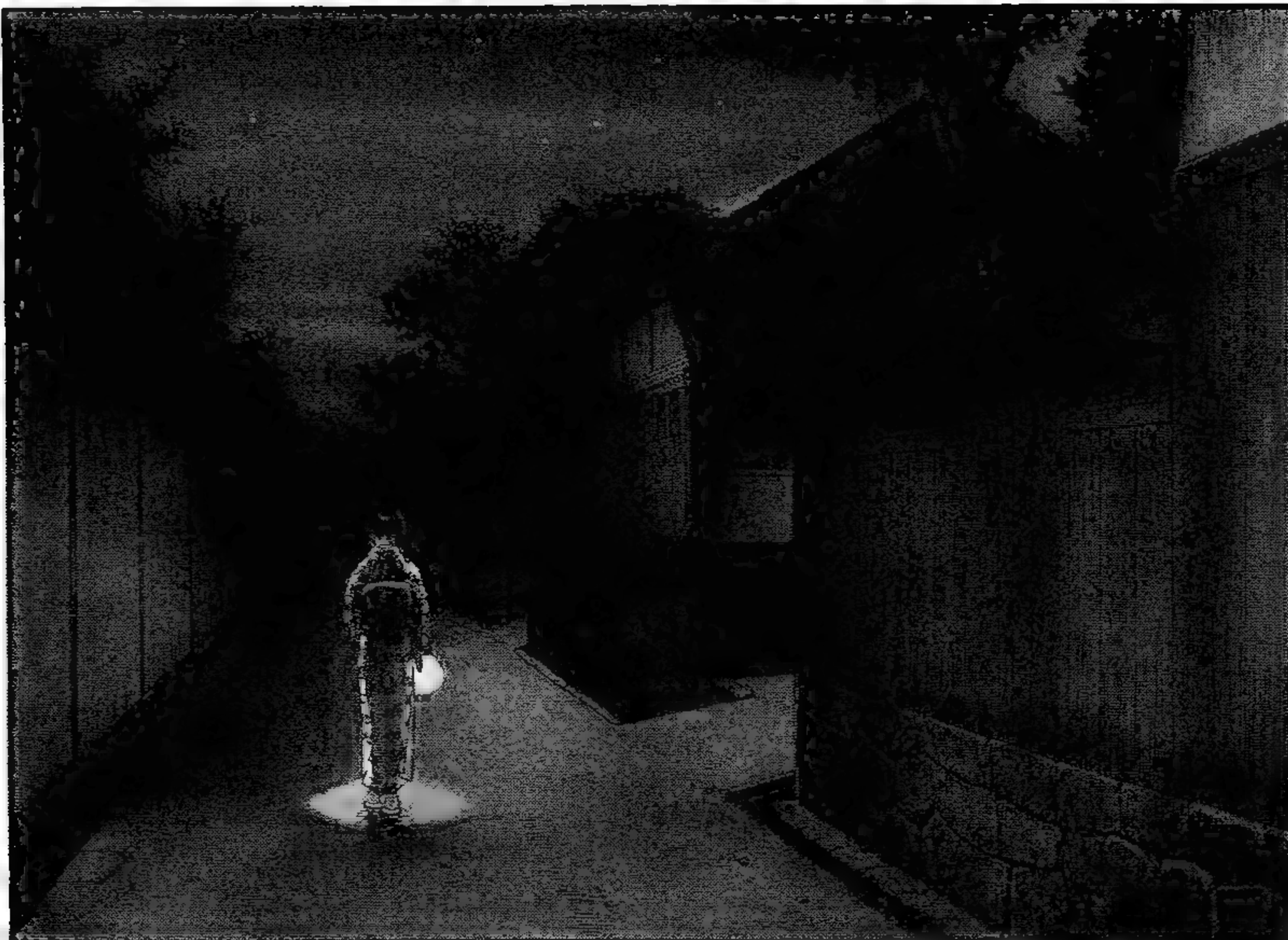




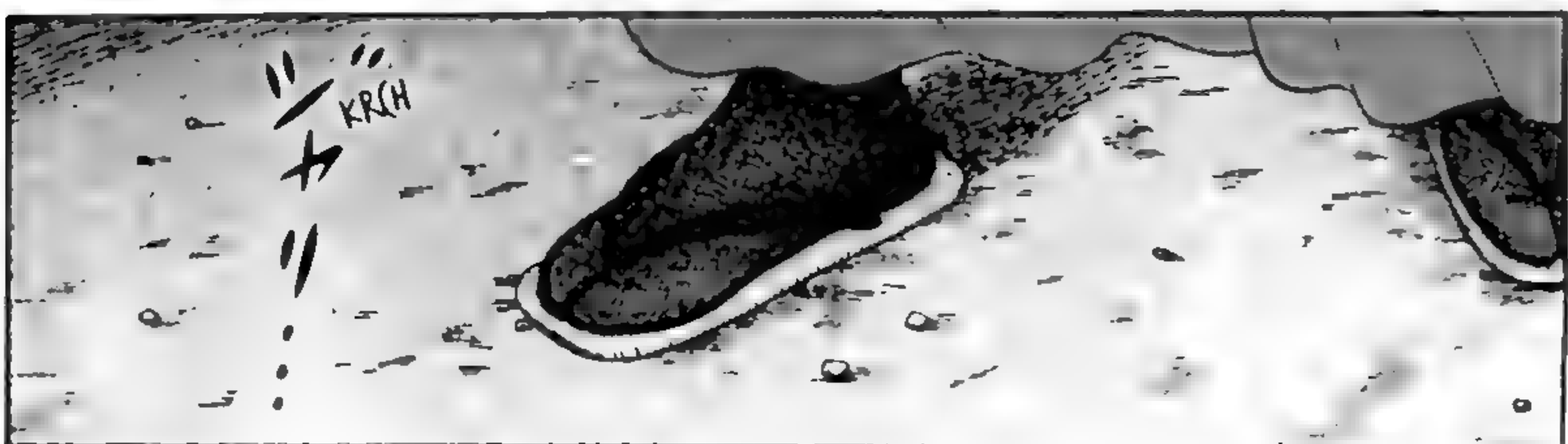
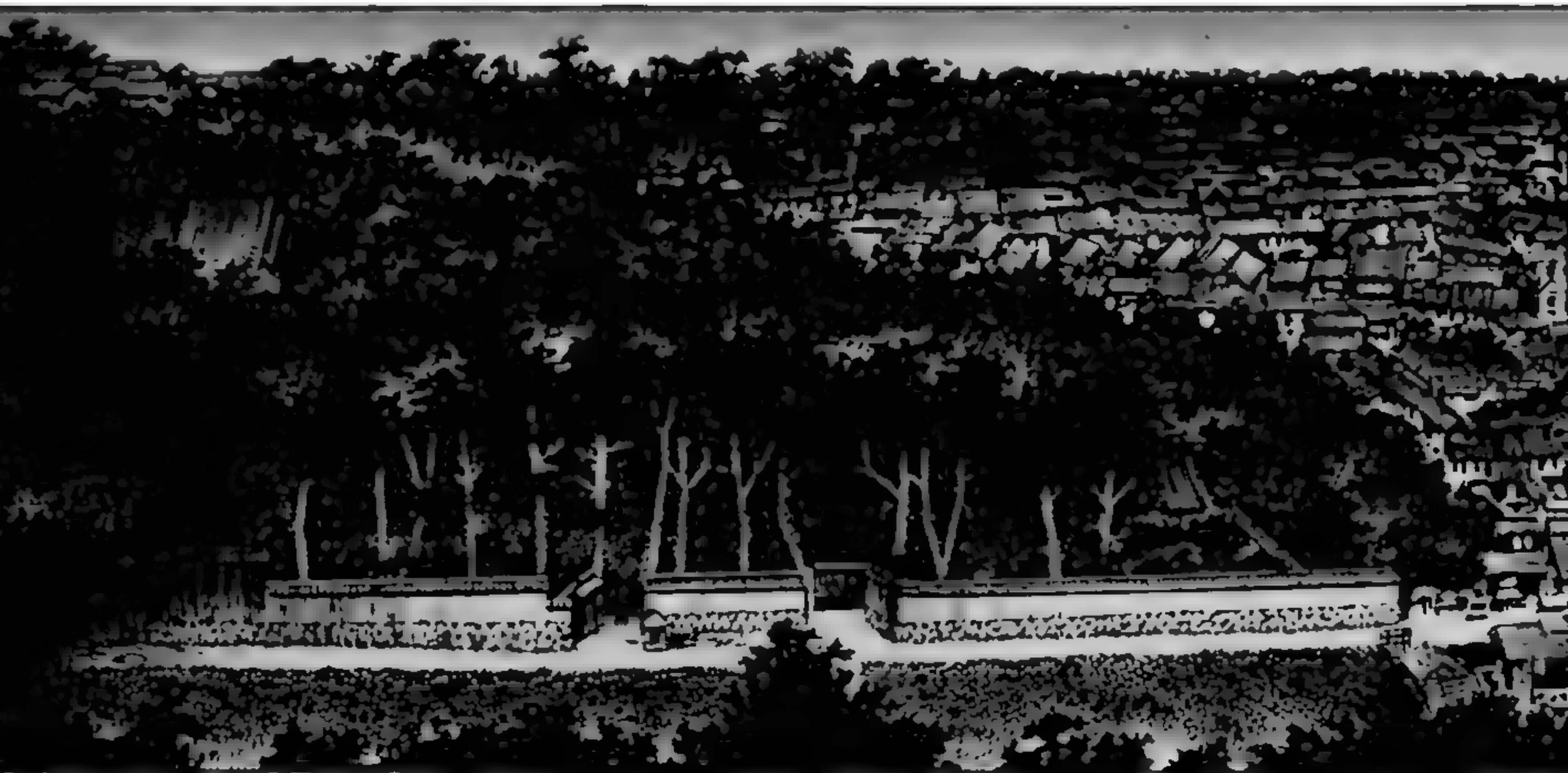
# VIRTUE CHAPTER PART 3: SENTIMENT OF THE FALLEN STARS















THIS WILL  
SULLY MY  
BLADE...

DAMN! A  
WOMAN...

hic



REST IN  
PEACE!

NO CAN DO...  
YOU SAW MY  
FACE...



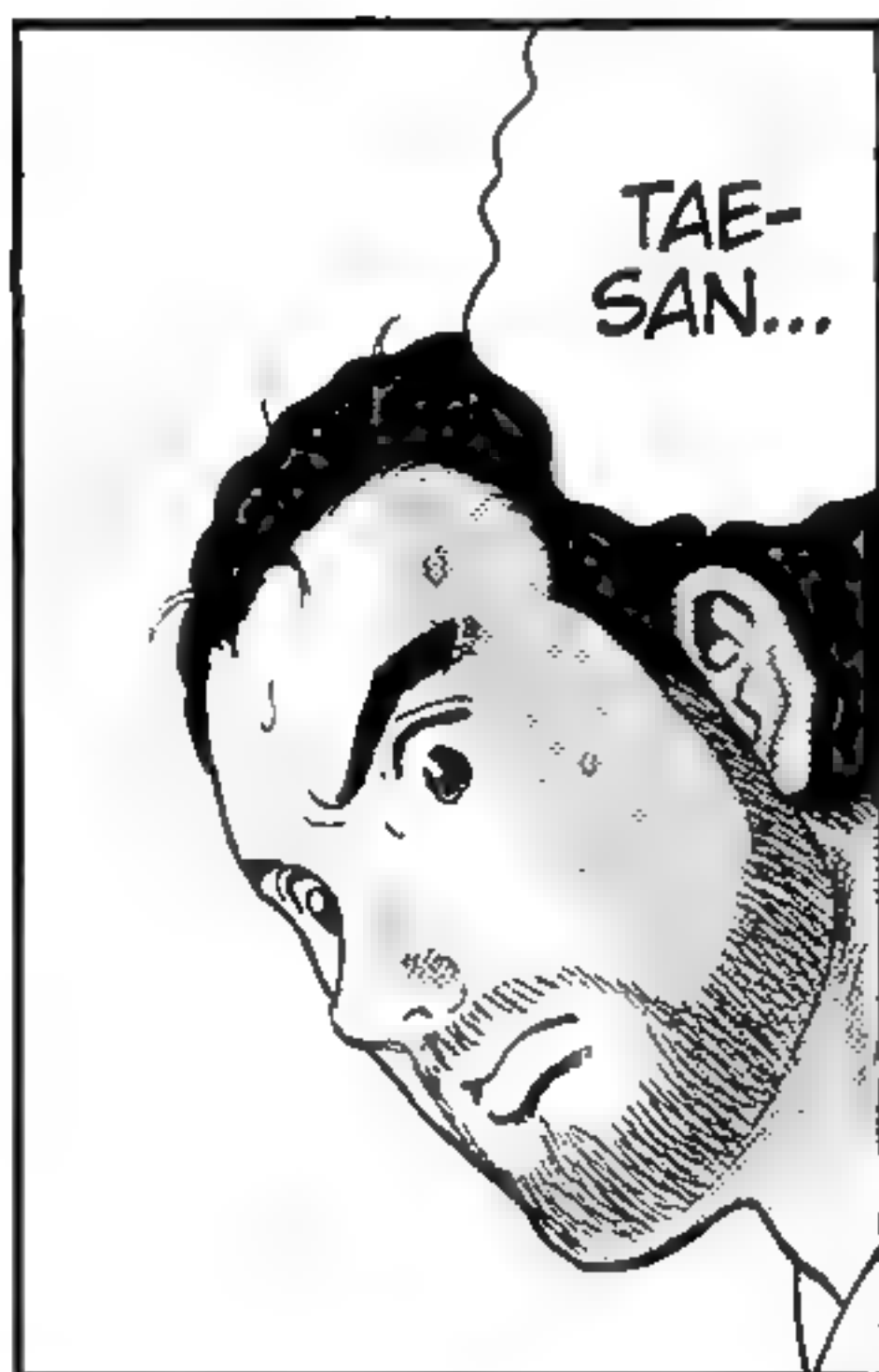
GREAT  
SAMURAI-  
SAMAI

P-PLEASE  
SPARE ME!

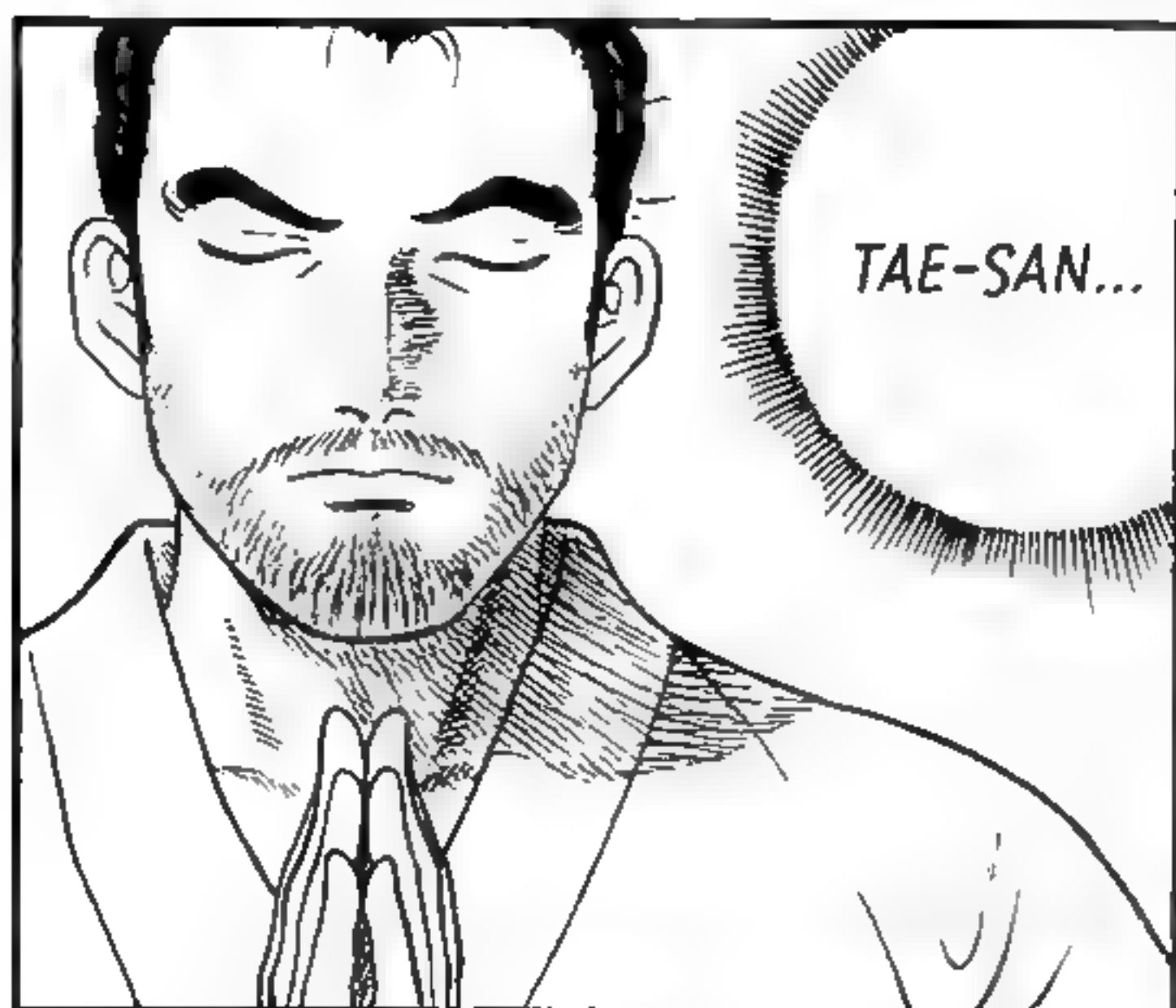












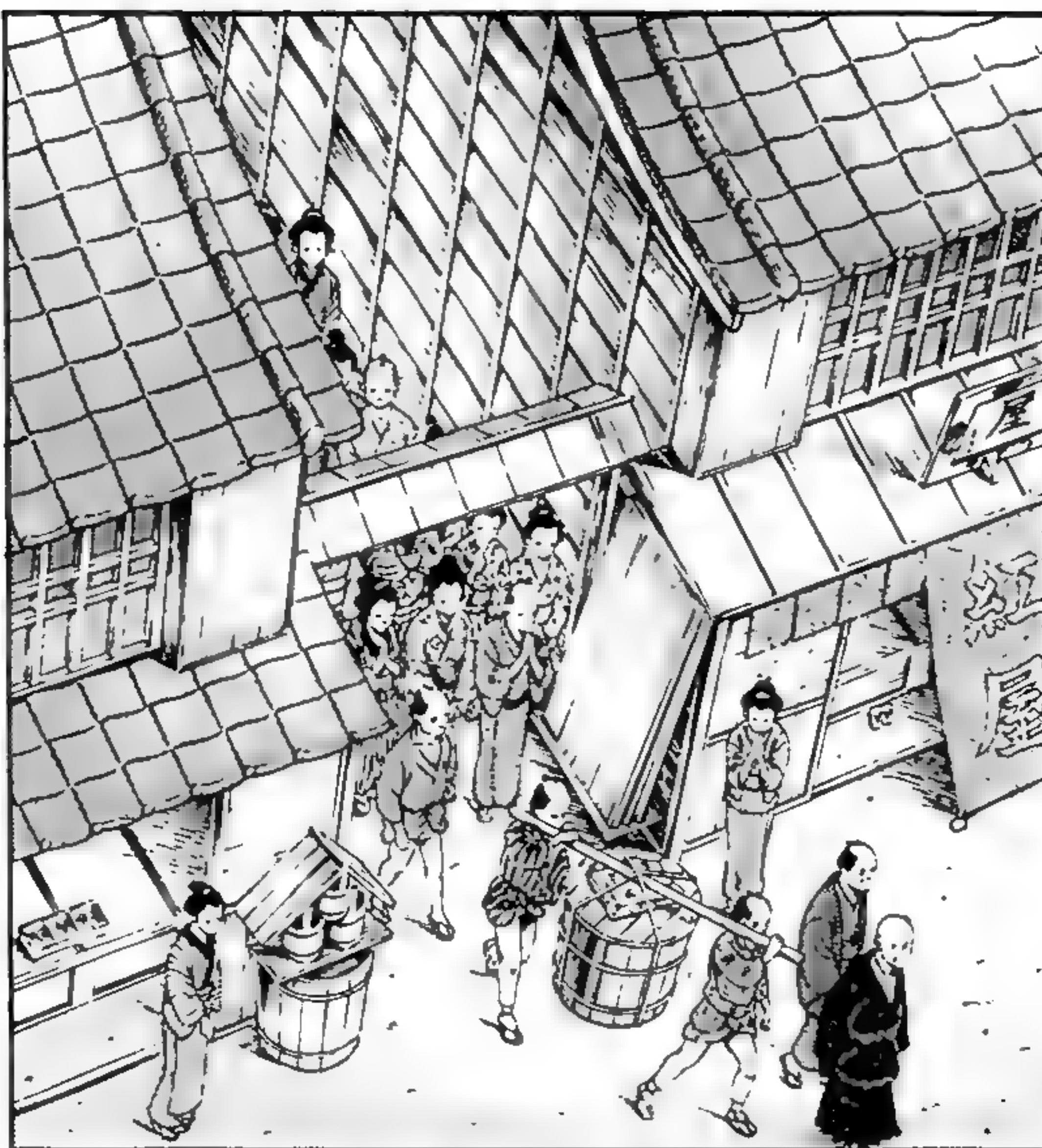
















I WONDER  
WHAT THIS SENSE  
OF DEFEAT I'M  
FEELING IS...

HOWEVER,  
I'VE NEVER  
FELT QUITE  
LIKE THIS  
BEFORE.



I DIDN'T SEE  
KICHI IN THE  
DISTRICT AGAIN.  
I HEARD HE'D  
BEEN TAKEN BY  
SOME RELATIVE  
OF HIS IN THE  
COUNTRYSIDE.

EVEN AFTER THAT,  
MY DAYS OF GOING  
BACK AND FORTH  
BETWEEN THE TACHI-  
BANA'S RESIDENCE  
AND THE TENEMENT  
HOUSE IN HONJO  
AIOI DISTRICT  
CONTINUED.



SINCE  
SHE WASN'T  
CONTAGIOUS  
ANYMORE, I  
COULD ONCE  
AGAIN ASK HER  
MOTHER TO  
TAKE CARE  
OF HER

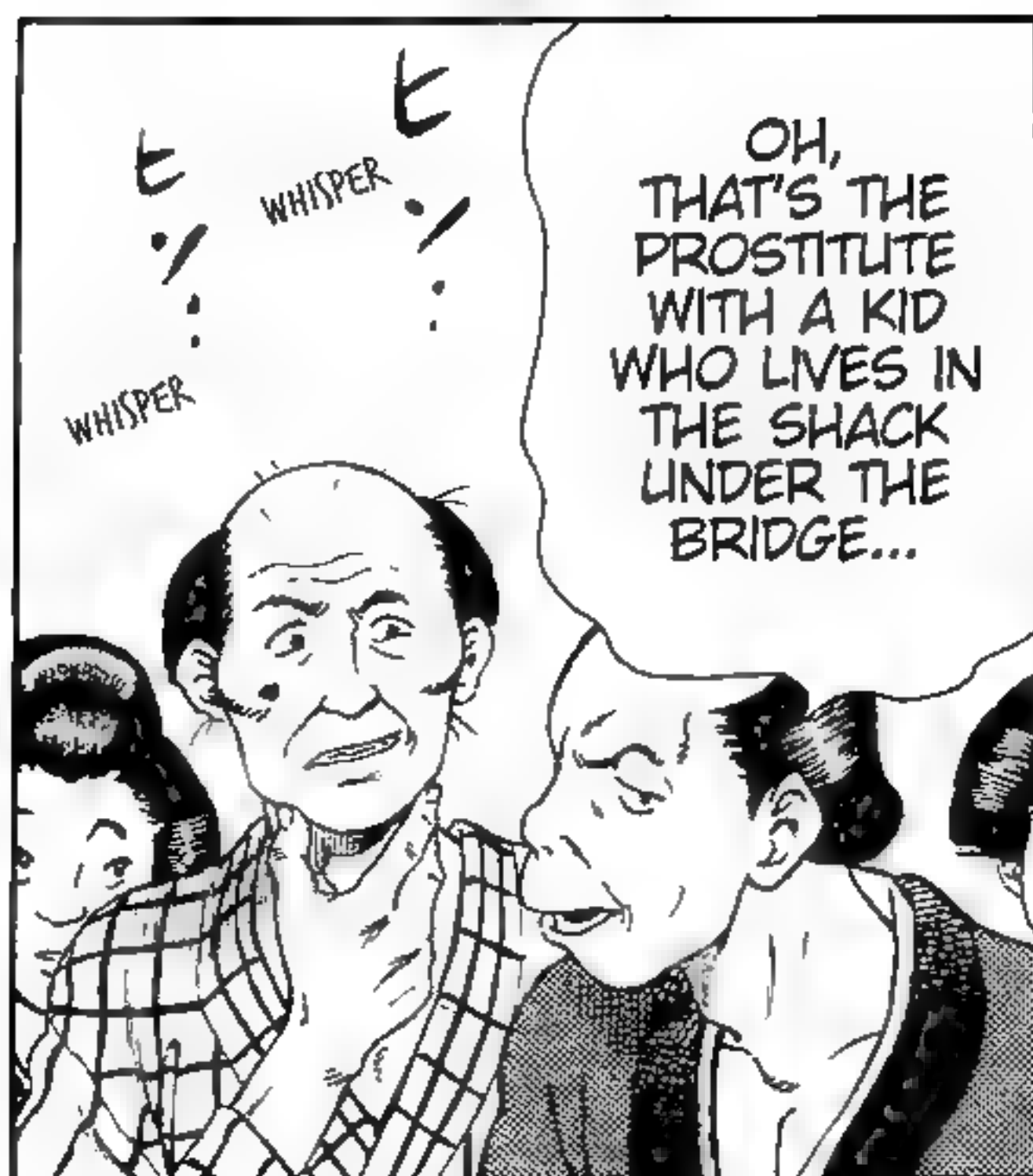
SAKI-SAN'S  
RASHES FADED  
AND HER FEVER  
AND CATARRHAL  
SYMPTOM ALSO  
DISAPPEARED



BUT THE  
DEMONIC PLAGUE  
THAT SHROUDED  
THE CITY OF EDO  
IN FEAR THAT  
SUMMER WOULD  
NOT LEAVE QUITE  
SO EASILY.











SHE DIED  
A FEW HOURS  
LATER IN SPITE  
OF TREATMENT.

HOWEVER,  
THE GIRL HAD  
COMPLICATION  
FROM A VERY  
SERIOUS CASE  
OF INTERSTITIAL  
PNEUMONIA...



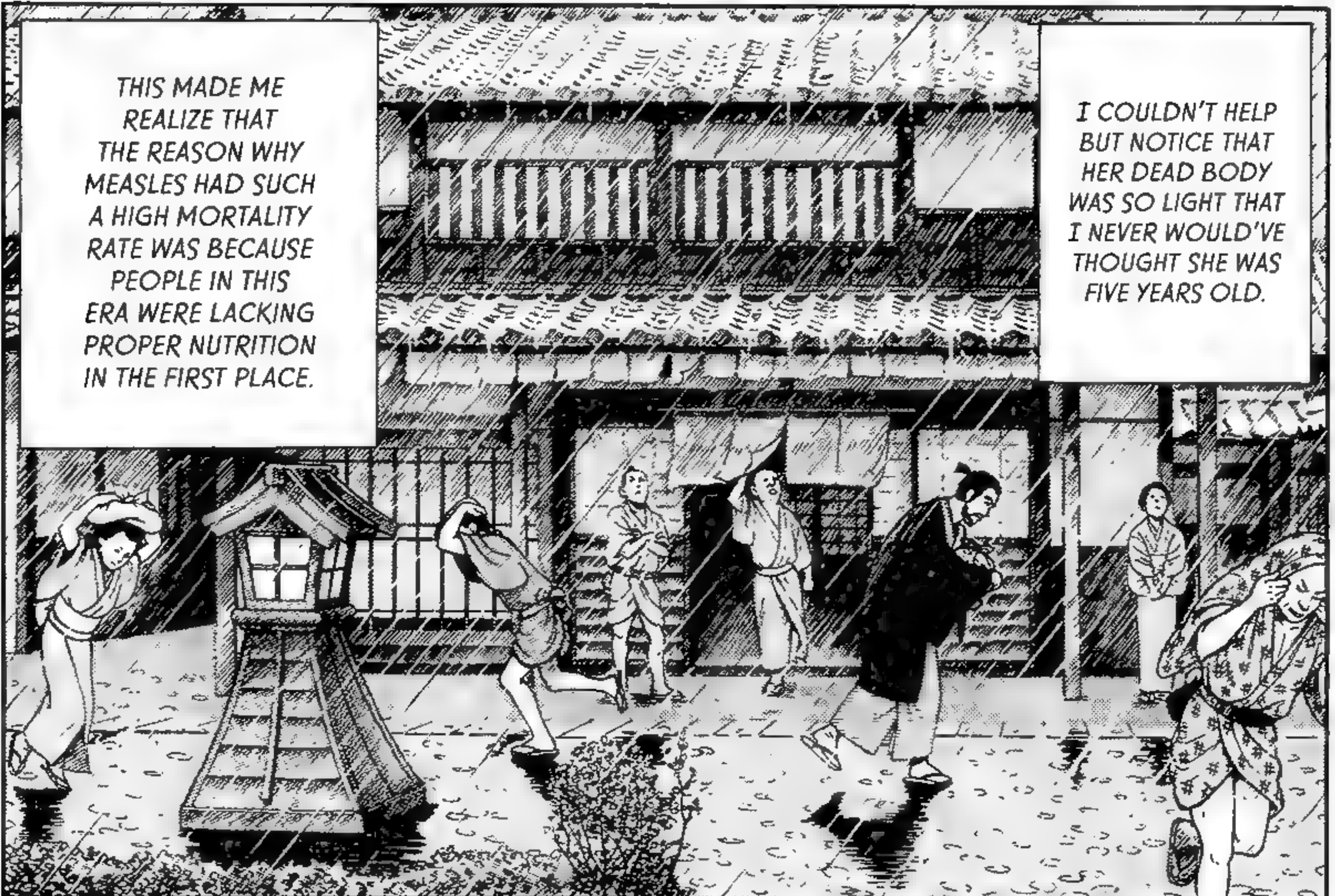
BUT IN THE END,  
SHE WAS SEEN BY  
A DOCTOR BEFORE  
HER JOURNEY TO  
HEAVEN... I CAN AT  
LEAST BE PROUD  
OF THAT.

THANK YOU,  
I'M GRATEFUL...  
I WASN'T ABLE  
TO DO ANYTHING  
GOOD FOR HER  
DURING THE FIVE  
YEARS I WAS  
HER PARENT...

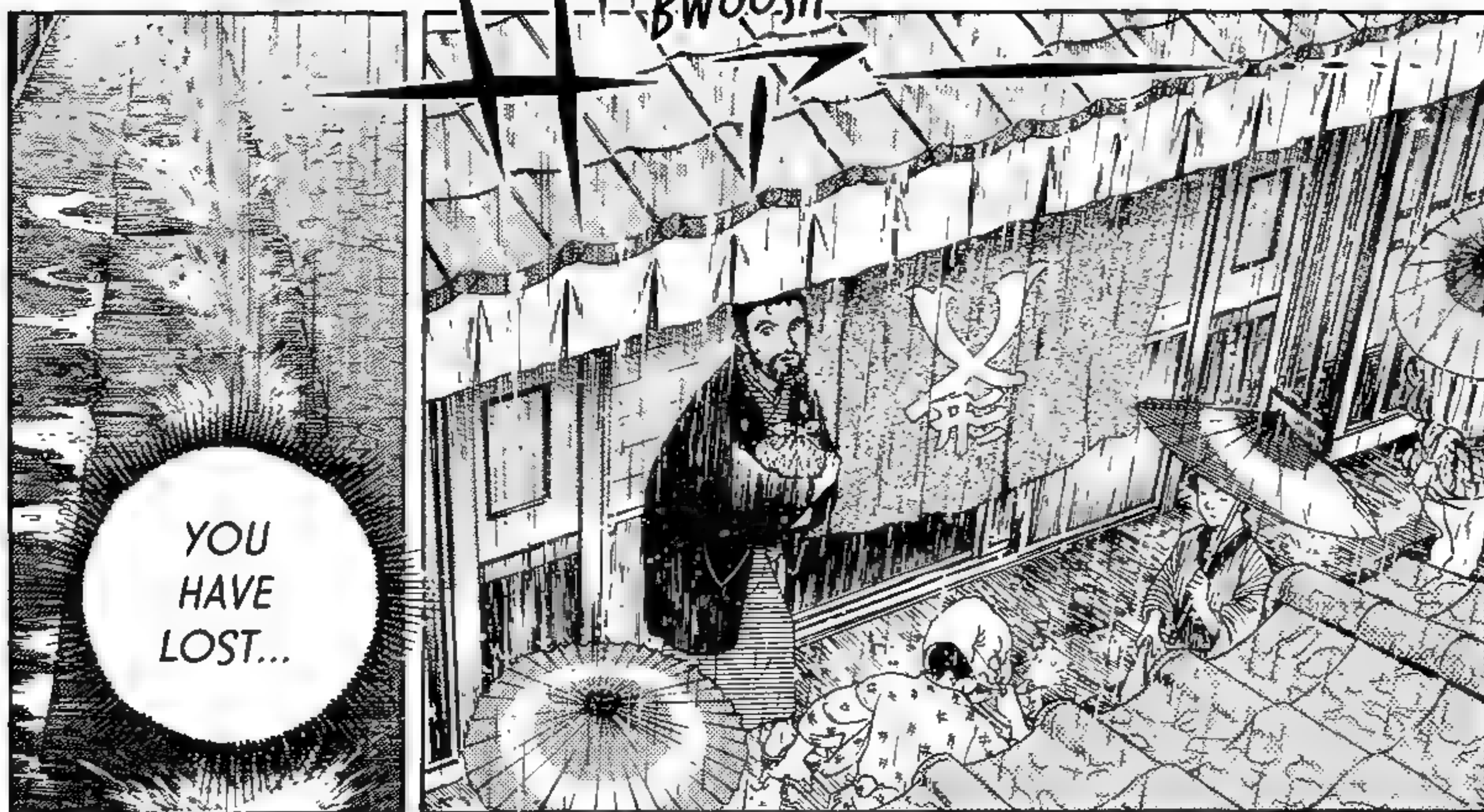


THIS MADE ME  
REALIZE THAT  
THE REASON WHY  
MEASLES HAD SUCH  
A HIGH MORTALITY  
RATE WAS BECAUSE  
PEOPLE IN THIS  
ERA WERE LACKING  
PROPER NUTRITION  
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I COULDN'T HELP  
BUT NOTICE THAT  
HER DEAD BODY  
WAS SO LIGHT THAT  
I NEVER WOULD'VE  
THOUGHT SHE WAS  
FIVE YEARS OLD.

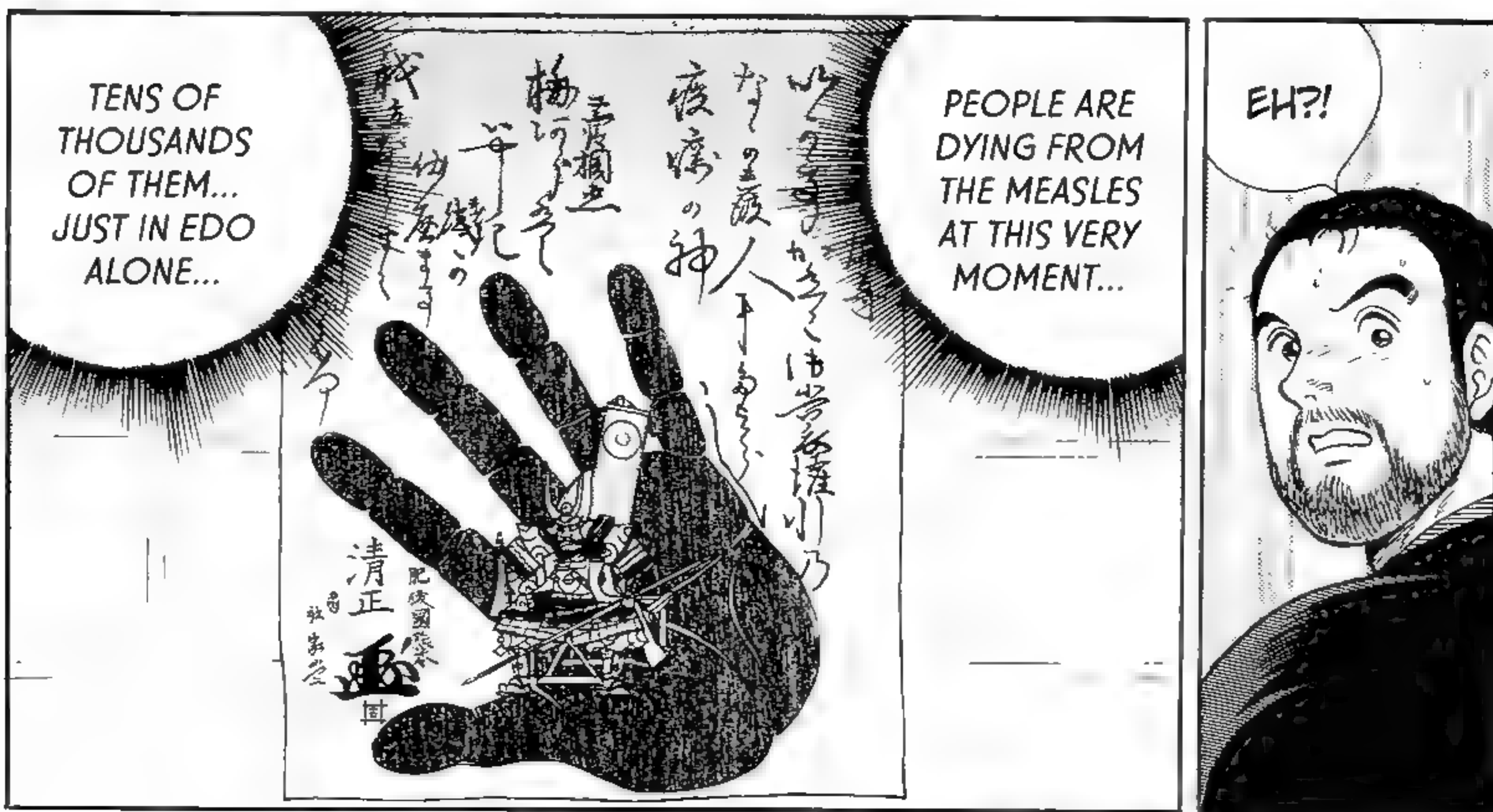






YOU  
HAVE  
LOST...

BWOOSH



TENS OF  
THOUSANDS  
OF THEM...  
JUST IN EDO  
ALONE...

PEOPLE ARE  
DYING FROM  
THE MEASLES  
AT THIS VERY  
MOMENT...

EH?!



YOU WERE ONLY  
ABLE TO SAVE  
A TINY NUMBER  
OF THEM. ARE  
YOU SATISFIED  
WITH THAT?!

WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE  
ABOUT IT?





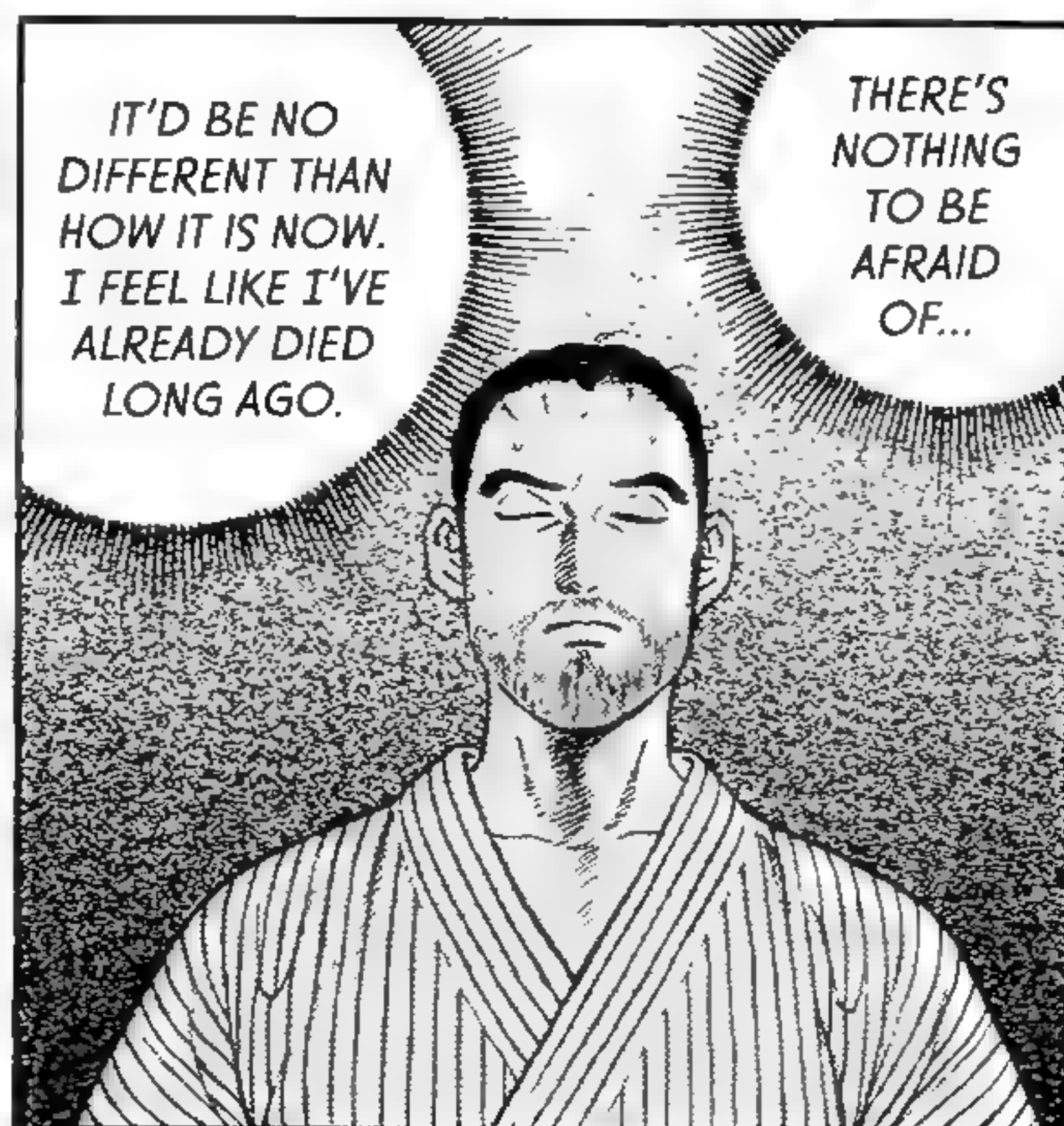
















I WON'T  
LET YOU  
JUMP!

PLEASE  
DON'T!



YOU WERE  
BEHAVING  
DIFFERENTLY  
THAN YOU DO  
NORMALLY...

I SAW YOU  
LEAVE THE  
HOUSE AND  
FOLLOWED  
YOU.



WHY  
ARE YOU  
HERE?

SAKI-  
SAN... ?!



THE WORLD  
YOU CAME  
FROM?



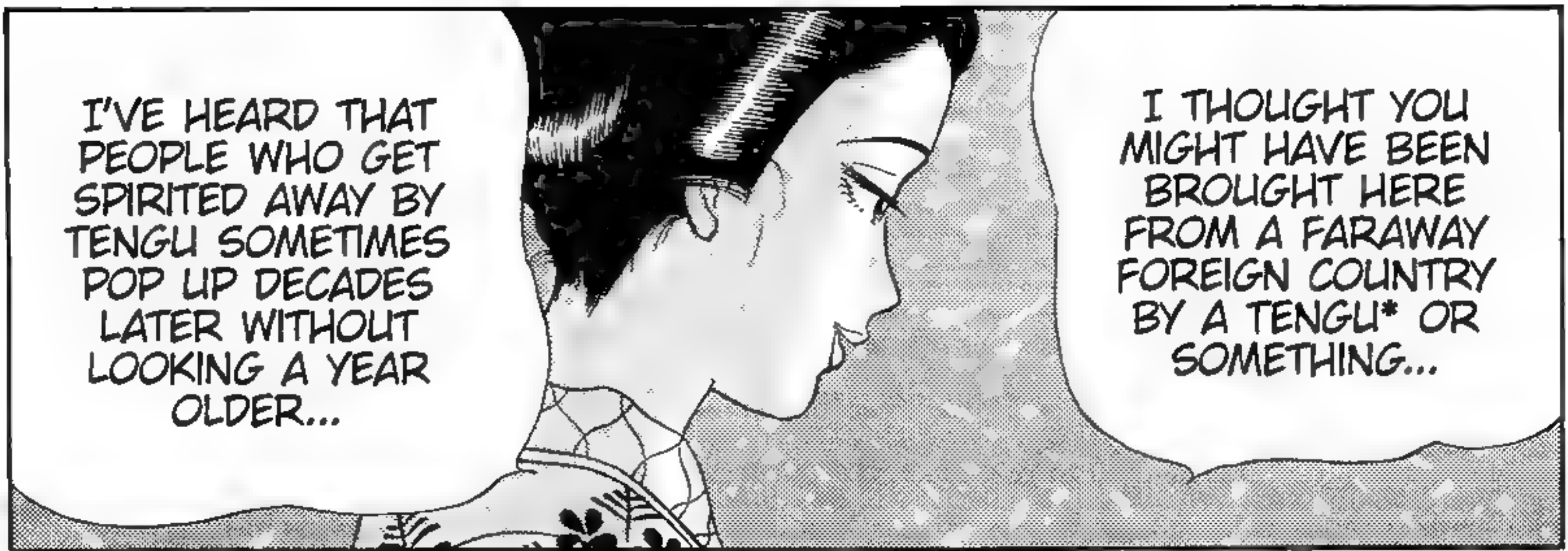
I FELT  
SOMEHOW  
LIKE THERE  
MIGHT BE AN  
ENTRANCE  
HERE BACK TO  
THE WORLD I  
CAME FROM.

I HAD NO  
INTENTION OF  
KILLING MYSELF.  
I CAME HERE  
SINCE I WANTED  
TO GO BACK TO  
WHERE I WAS  
BEFORE.









I'VE HEARD THAT  
PEOPLE WHO GET  
SPIRITED AWAY BY  
TENGLU SOMETIMES  
POP UP DECADES  
LATER WITHOUT  
LOOKING A YEAR  
OLDER...

I THOUGHT YOU  
MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
BROUGHT HERE  
FROM A FARAWAY  
FOREIGN COUNTRY  
BY A TENGLU\* OR  
SOMETHING...



YES, YOU  
MUST'VE BEEN  
BROUGHT HERE BY  
GOD OR BUDDHA  
NOT FROM THE  
PAST BUT FROM  
THE FUTURE.



SP...  
SPIRITED  
AWAY?



SAKI-SAN...  
THAT'S...



I'M SURE  
YOU WERE  
SENT HERE  
TO CHANGE  
THIS WORLD  
AND SAVE  
MANY LIVES.

THERE ARE  
NO DOCTORS  
LIKE YOU IN  
EDO... NO, IN  
THE WHOLE  
WORLD.







"WHO ARE  
YOU? WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
ACHIEVE  
HERE...?"



TENS OF  
THOUSANDS  
OF SOULS  
ASKING ME,







A FEW  
DAYS  
LATER...



REALLY?!



THEY  
FINALLY  
GOT THE  
KILLER!

THEY  
FOUND HIM,  
MINAKATA-  
SENSEI!



THIS RUMOR  
REACHED THE  
MAGISTRATE  
OFFICER, AND  
AFTER DIGGING  
DEEPER, HE  
FOUND THE  
AFFAIR QUITE  
SUSPICIOUS.

A SAMURAI  
WHO FIT THE  
DESCRIPTION  
ON THE WANTED  
POSTER WAS  
OFTEN SEEN  
DRINKING AT  
AN IZAKAYA\*  
IN SHITAYA-  
HIROKOJI.



HE WAS  
KILLING PEOPLE  
FOR MONEY TO  
GO TO THE RED-  
LIGHT DISTRICT\*.  
HE'LL SURELY LOSE  
HIS HEAD AT THE  
END OF THE  
INVESTIGATION.

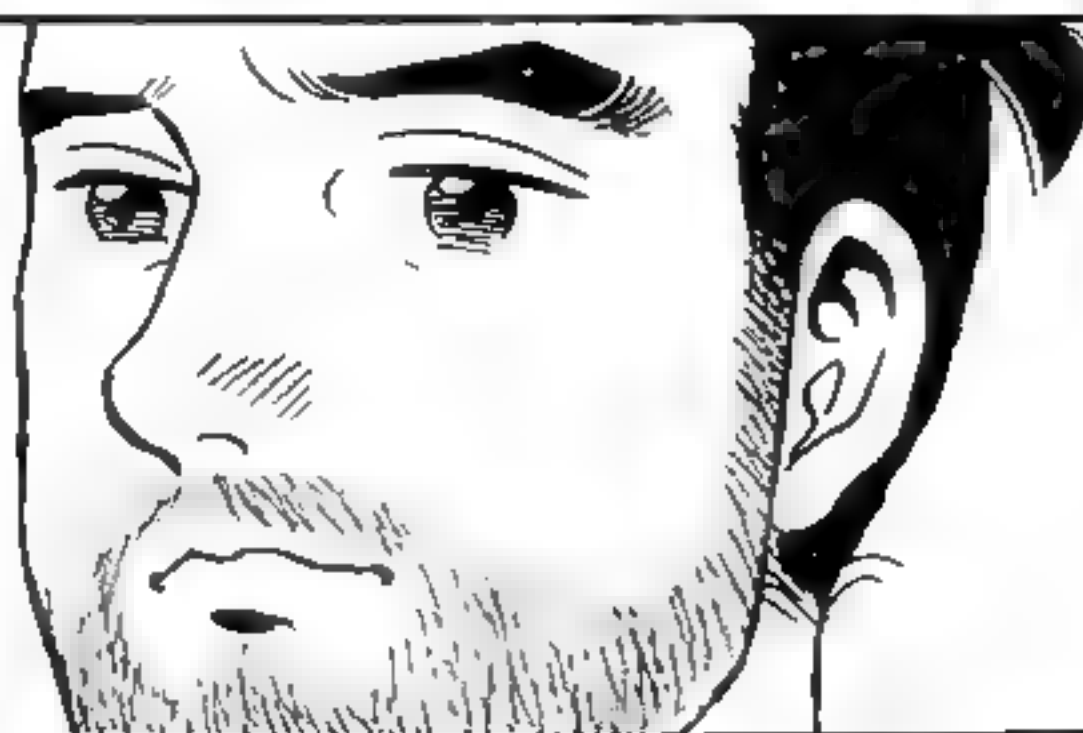


HE WAS  
A HATAMOTO-  
SAMURAI\* BY  
THE NAME OF  
TORASABURO  
MURATA.



THEY WAITED  
OUTSIDE TO  
AMBUSH HIM  
WHEN HE CAME  
OUT DRUNK AND  
CAPTURED HIM  
AFTER QUITE AN  
UPROAR.

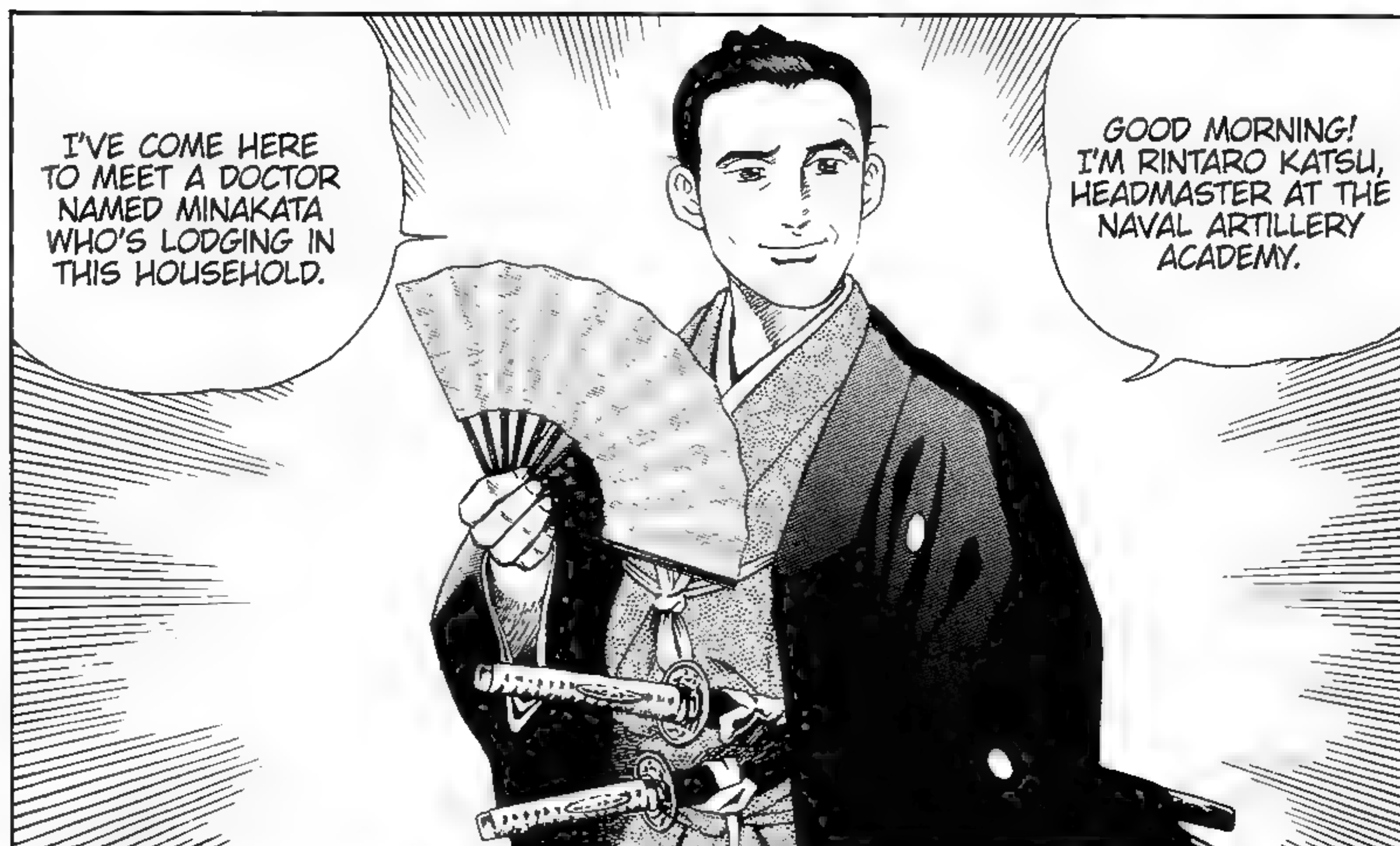
WE CAUGHT  
HIM, KICHI...



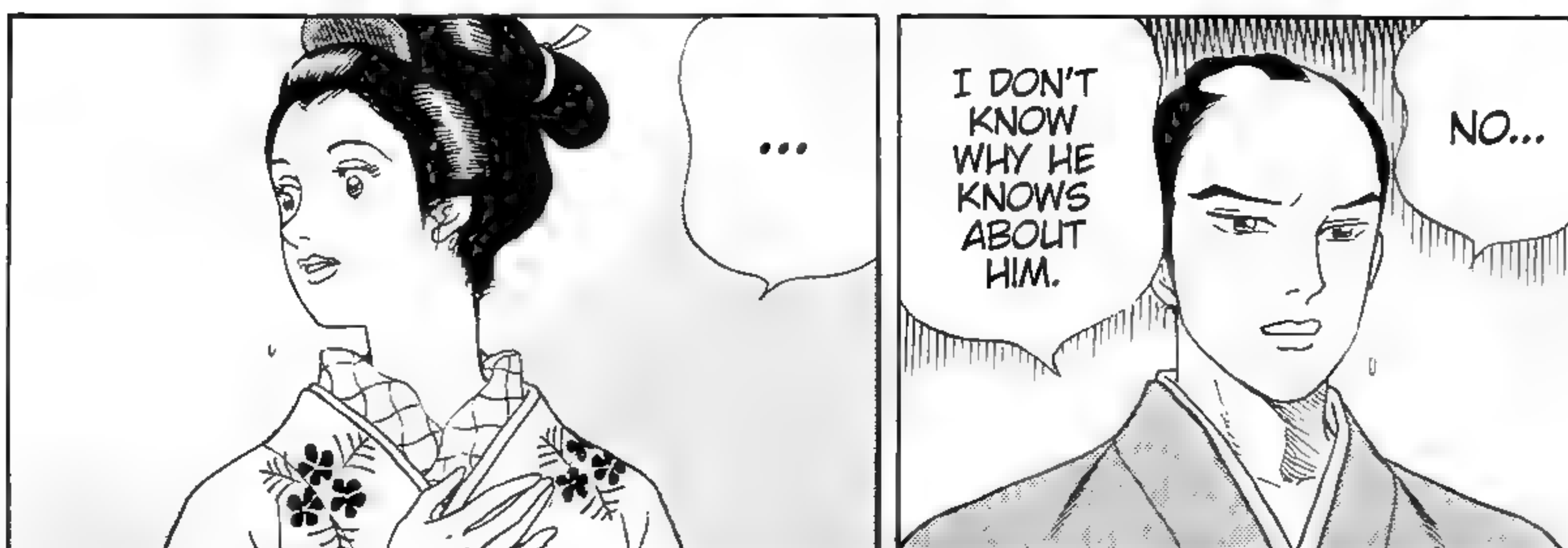
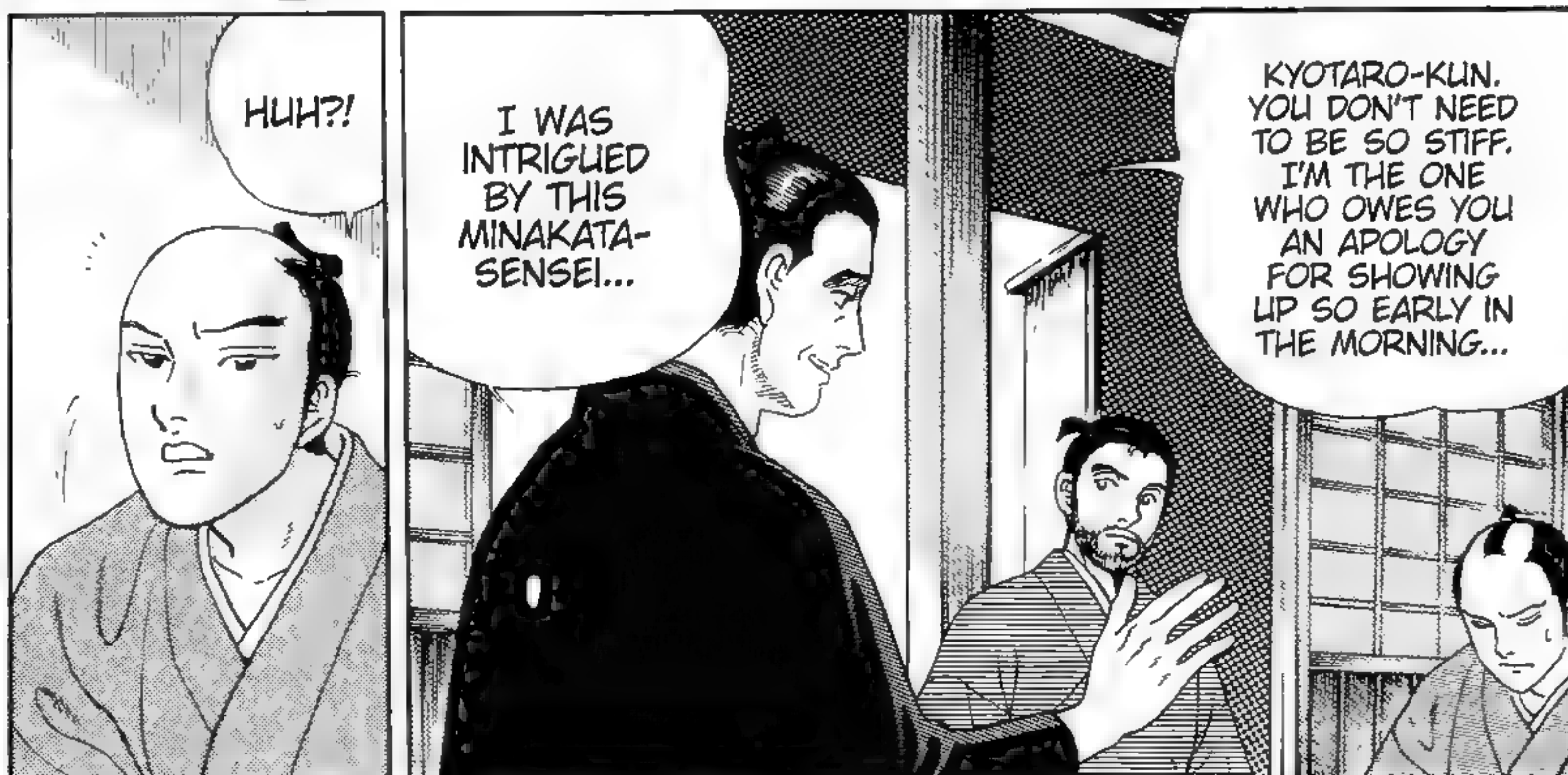
I SEE.  
THE FACIAL  
DESCRIPTION  
WAS USEFUL  
IN THE END  
THEN...















I HEARD GOSSIP ABOUT A DOCTOR WHO SAVED THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE TENEMENT HOUSE OF THE HONJO AIOI DISTRICT FROM THE MEASLES...

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE HONJO DISTRICT AND STILL HAVE STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH FOLKS THERE BECAUSE MY FAMILY WAS ONE OF THE POOR HATAMOTO SAMURAI.



IT'S AN HONOR.



I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM COMING BY TO MEET YOU.

AND WHEN THEY TOLD ME THAT THE DOCTOR WAS STAYING AT THE HOUSE OF A FAMILY I KNEW...

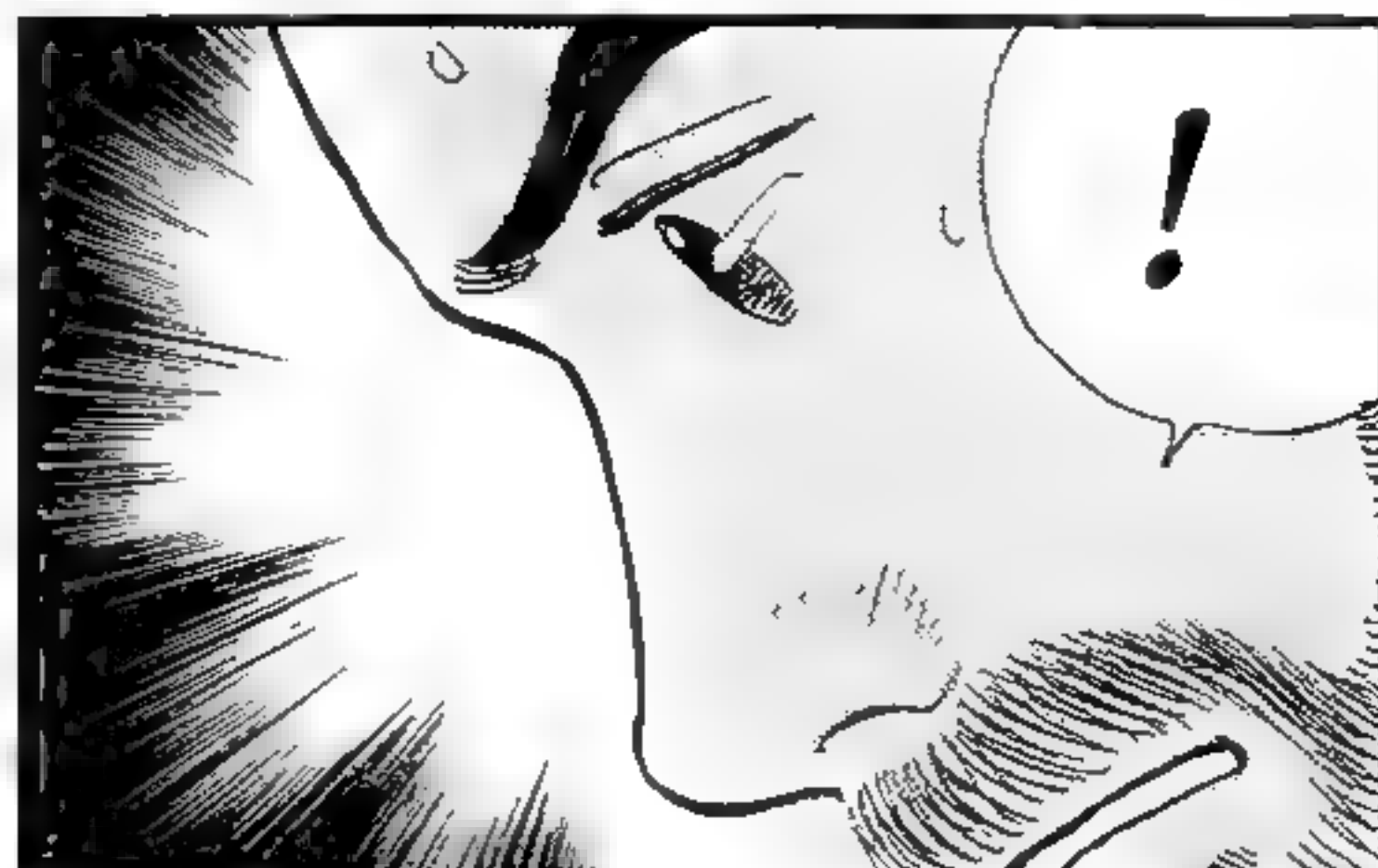


I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A SKILLED DOCTOR BEFORE...

THEY SAY YOU SAVED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS THERE WITHOUT EVEN USING ANY MEDICINE...



WHO... ARE YOU EXACTLY?

















IT'S HARD TO  
BELIEVE THAT WAS  
JUST SOME MADE  
UP STORY... IT WAS  
PRETTY PERSUASIVE  
TO BE HONEST...



YES...  
**THE REAL  
THING IS  
AMAZING!**



WOULD  
BECOME  
A MAJOR  
STARTING  
POINT TO MY  
INVOLVEMENT  
IN THIS ERA.

MY MEETING  
WITH RINTARO  
KATSU, THE  
SHOGUNATE  
RETAINER LATER  
KNOWN AS  
KAISHU KATSU...





